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38

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homes & kitchens

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Derry~Londonderry

*The
Cosy Issue*

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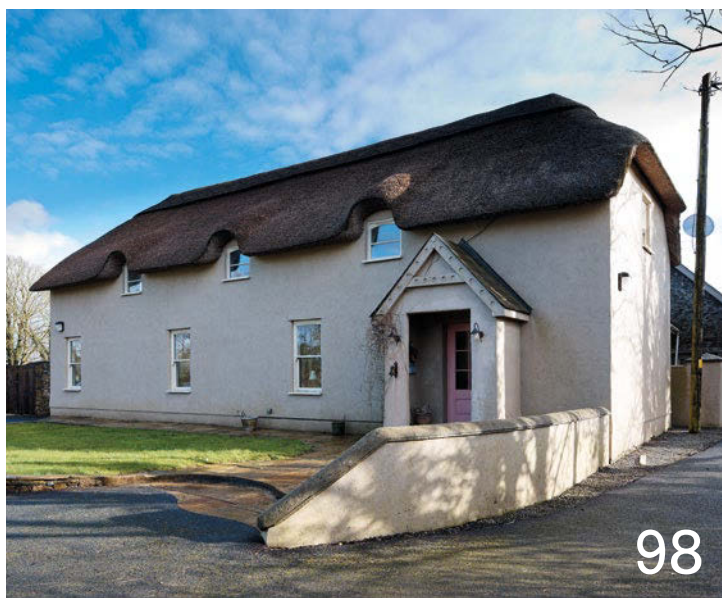
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NEPTUNE



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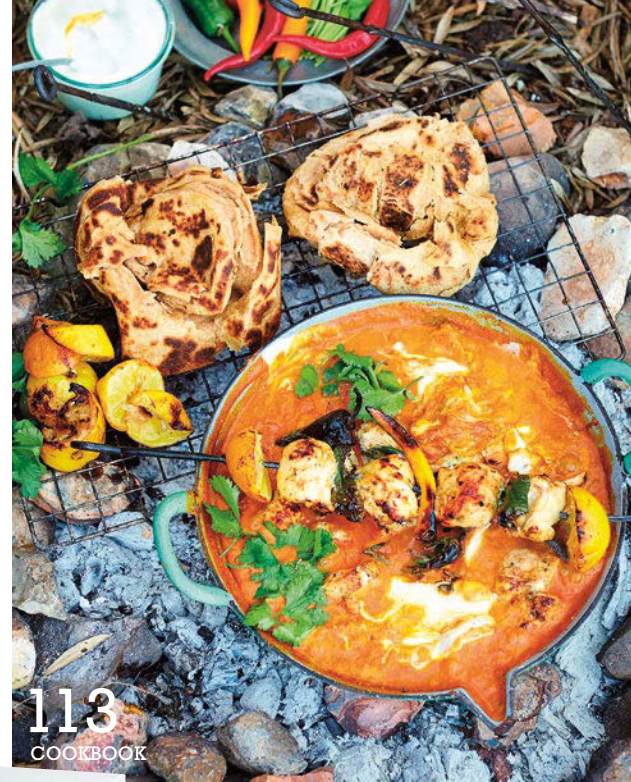
Competitions

- 28 The Bearded Candle Makers are offering one reader the chance to win the one-off Wunderlust scented hand poured candle into an Amici recycled glass container. Total prize value worth £45.

- 29 DFS are offering one lucky reader the chance of winning a Sophia Cuddler sofa and Sophia footstool. Total prize value worth £890/€1,100.

- 33 The Rug House are offering four lucky readers the chance to each win a voucher worth £250/€310 to spend at The Rug House, Newry. Total prize value £1,000/€1,240.

- 117 Penguin Group are giving three readers the chance of winning a copy of Jamie's Comfort Food. Worth £30 each. Total prize value £90.



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**1 READER WINS £1,500/€1,800 WORTH OF VOUCHERS
TO SPEND ON FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES FROM
NEPTUNE.COM. TOTAL £1,500/€1,800**

Lynn Clarke, Killinchy.

**1 READER WINS AN ORIGINAL LIMITED EDITION
ARTWORK ENTITLED 'THE LAGAN LOVE MACHINE'
BY KEITH DRURY. TOTAL £240.**

Sylvia Kennedy, Ballymena.

**1 READER WINS A GROHE BLUE WATER SYSTEM
FROM GROHE. TOTAL £2,000.**

Martina Conway, Athlone.

**1 READER WINS AN ITALIAN THEMED COOKERY
CLASS FROM BALLYKNOCKEN COOKERY SCHOOL.
TOTAL €250.**

Grace Hill, Naas.

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IRELAND'S HOMES INTERIORS & LIVING

JANUARY 2015
NO 235



As we head into the New Year, with Christmas behind us and the decorations being stowed away for another year, it is the perfect time to wind down after all the excitement and relax in a warm home setting. Let our January issue help you on the way by showing you all things cosy for the home. We look at soft flooring, with a range of carpets and rugs to lay the perfect foundation in a cosy setting. Over to the windows, we look at curtains and blinds and

the benefit they have in keeping heat in a room. Next in our cosy special we explore a collection of lovely seating options, from sofas and chairs, to chaise longues; perfect comforts for retreating to after a long day. Nothing heats up a kitchen like a range cooker; take a look through the latest selection of ranges in our feature and fulfill your inner chef. Now that all the main elements for a cosy haven are in place it is time to add in some cushions and throws to complement the rooms, and last but not least, we show you a selection of fragrances to top it all off by creating an ambience.

This month we head to Co. Wicklow to visit Kate and Paul in their stunning eco home with its incredible contemporary style, full of smooth edges and clean lines. Next we stop off in Tipperary to wonder at Sophie and Ian's quaint thatched cottage, set in a picturesque setting. We learn how they transformed a very basic cottage and series of outhouses into a beautiful family home.

Pauline in Bangor wanted to find that perfect house that all her own furniture could fit in harmoniously, so when she really found her 1980s chalet bungalow she got that elusive 'feeling'.

Our reader's kitchen this issue takes us to Majella's home in Derry where she knocked three rooms into one and let Hayburn turn the space into the classic kitchen of her dreams; a space for all the family to gather.

Our cookbook this month is Jamie Oliver's brand new Jamie's Comfort Food, offering lots of winter warming recipes that the whole family will love.

We also have our issue regulars, with our gardening expert teaching us how to cut our own bouquets and Denise O'Connor adds to our cosy special by giving us some extra tips.

In our travel features we look at County Leitrim where the activities and character are defined by water.

Further afield we visit snowy Quebec in Canada, an amazing setting for skiing where we explore the many ongoing winter festivals along with the amazing eateries on offer. Finally, we at Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living would like to wish all our readers a very Happy New Year! We hope you enjoy this packed issue.

If you have a home, or know of someone who has a home, that you would like to see featured in the magazine contact editorial on 028 9147 3979 or email editorial@ihil.net

18 YEARS
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Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living 4,116,075

All Ireland Kitchen Guide 180,465

homestyle

An inspirational selection of the latest traditional and contemporary furniture, fabric and accessories for your home.

The **Dovre** Tai matt black stove, multi fuel. £1,849.
Euro price on request. This 50's inspired stove features a simple yet distinctive square firebox, elegant legs and a striking designer door lever. For a full list of Irish stockists phone 01392 474 057. www.dovre.co.uk





Neon Neon

Block neon drip vase from **Red Candy**. Give your flowers a funky uplift! £21. Phone 012 1224 7728. www.redcandy.co.uk

Encore!

Encore basket from **In-Spaces**. Innovative in shape and styling, this striking bowl is created using a replicated form and a stainless steel square tube. 33cm. £120. Phone 020 7268 3315. www.in-spaces.com

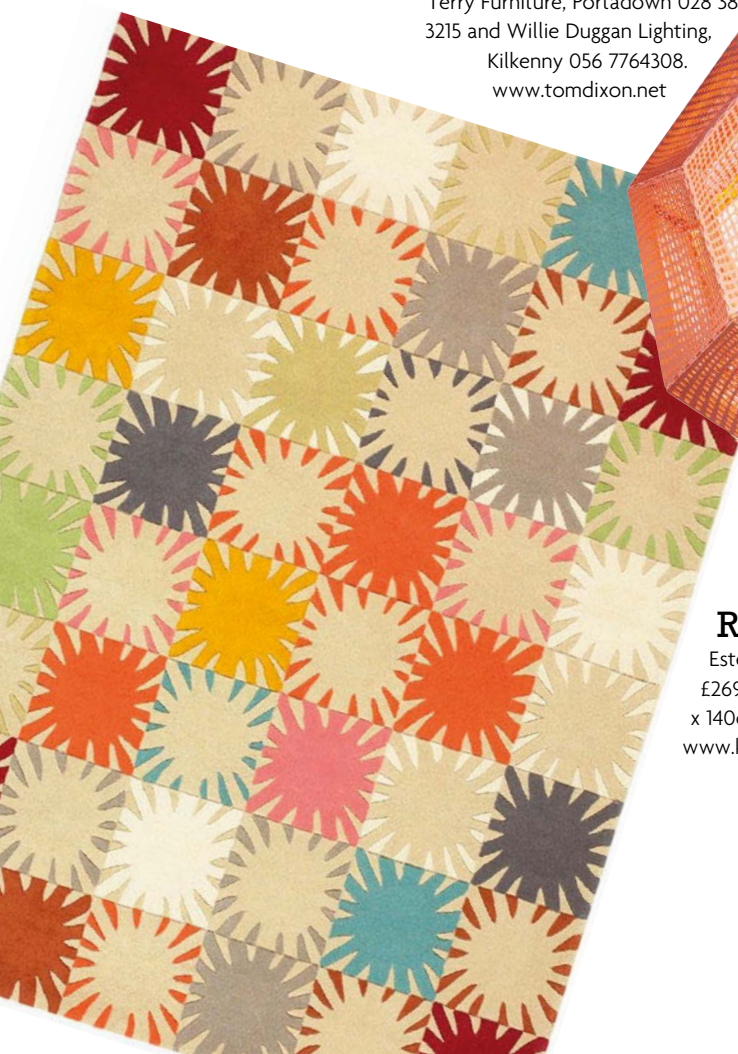


Cosy Up

Orange Edwardian style armchair from **A Little Furniture Shop**. It has been reproduced from an Edwardian arm chair frame and is made to order in 1000's of fabrics. This Romo Black orange velvet fabric makes a great statement piece. £995. Phone 01743 352102. www.littlefurnitureshop.co.uk

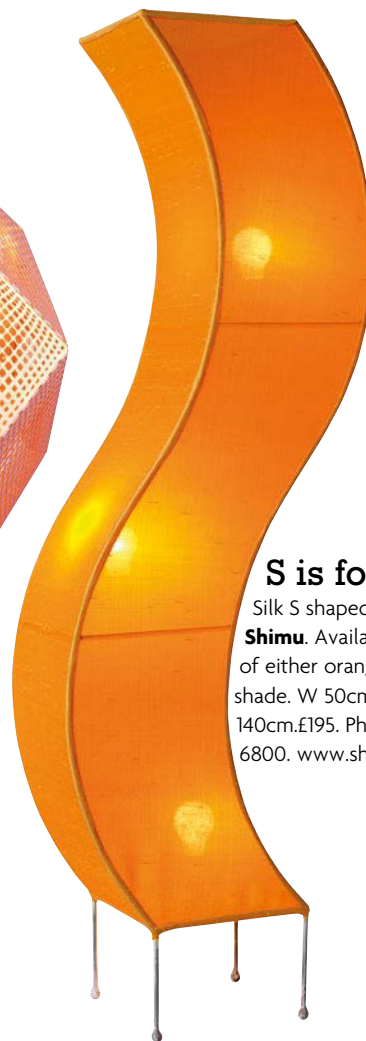
Cool Copper

Tom Dixon Etch shade copper pendant light. £325. Euro price on request. Phone Lighting Design, Belfast www.LightingDesignOnline.com; Terry Furniture, Portadown 028 3833 3215 and Willie Duggan Lighting, Kilkenny 056 7764308. www.tomdixon.net



Retro Rug

Estella blanket rug from **Kelaty**. £269 for rug measuring 200cm x 140cm. Phone 020 8207 0208. www.kelaty.com



S is for Stylish

Silk S shaped floor lamp from **Shimu**. Available in a choice of either orange or cream silk shade. W 50cm x D 25cm x H 140cm. £195. Phone 0800 088 6800. www.shimu.co.uk



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The **Anglepoise** Type75 desk lamp is the redesign of the popular lamp from the 1970s. It is designed to have a broad of movement and classic look and feel. £109. Phone Lighting World, Dublin 01 6717788 and National Lighting, Dublin 01 6769555 and 01 7099070. www.anglepoise.com



Iconic Status

The Archipatch collection from **Jan Constantine**. Inspired by sections from iconic buildings such as the Gherkin, the Shard and the British Museum's Great Court, these cushions are made in black linen with cream wool embroidered patches. Price on request. Phone The Blue Door, Kildare 01 6270080 and Luvit, Galway 091 567088 or visit www.janconstantine.com



Snuggle Up

White Fluffy Cali armchair from **Sweetpea & Willow**. Never has an acrylic chair looked more snuggly and comfortable. This chair is ultra-modern with its cool curvaceous seat back, embellished on one side with evenly aligned circles. Topped off with a gorgeously fluffy, white seat cushion and black metal legs this chair is beautifully unique. £665. Phone 0845 257 2627. www.sweetpeaandwillow.com



Store in Style

The Bedford storage basket from **Leather & Lavender** is a true classic and is particularly beautiful yet versatile. It looks fabulous in both contemporary and traditional settings and can be used for storing just about anything. Also available in classic tan leather or tan or grey cowhide. £110. www.leatherandlavender.co.uk

Cute Cup

Jane Foster panda mug from **hunkydory home**. £10. Phone 019 1645 4004. www.hunkydoryhome.co.uk



Check Mate

Black and white cushion from **Natuzzi**. 50cm x 50cm. £75. Euro price on request. Phone Arnotts, Dublin 01 805 0400; House of Fraser (Natuzzi concession) Belfast 028 9032 0224; The 1933 Furniture Company, Navan 046 9093012; Franks Furniture, Dundalk 042 9335026; Gillespie & Wilson, Belfast 028 9047 1074 and Square Deal Interiors, Cork 021 4274045. For further information phone 01322 312550. www.natuzzi.co.uk





Silver Style

Casa Couture silver plated candlesticks from **House of Fraser**. £15. Phone Belfast 0844 8003705, Dundrum 01 2991400. www.houseoffraser.co.uk



What a Wall

Parsley flower wallpaper from **In-Spaces**. It has been developed from a photograph taken from the designers herb garden of flowering parsley plant. £40. Phone 020 7268 3315. www.in-spaces.com



A True Classic

Laura Ashley Melrose armchair in Hendon Natural. £950. For your local Irish stockist phone 0871 230 2301. www.lauraashley.com



Blooming Lovely

Bloomingville white groove angular vase from **Quince Living**. £22. Phone 017 3844 9098. www.quinceliving.co.uk



Parisian Style

French white Rococo blanket box from **Newtons**. Inspired by the faded elegance of 19th Century Paris and the current trend for French furniture. W x100cm, D x 45cm, H x 52cm. £229. Phone 016 2633 3006. www.newtonsfurniture.co.uk



Fade to Grey

Lambswool grey throw from **Oscar & Eve**. It is soft and warm and big enough to cover a double bed, so there is plenty of room to immerse you in it's loveliness. Size:140cm x 200cm. Available in oatmeal, chocolate and grey. £120. Phone 020 8993 7639. www.oscarandeve.co.uk

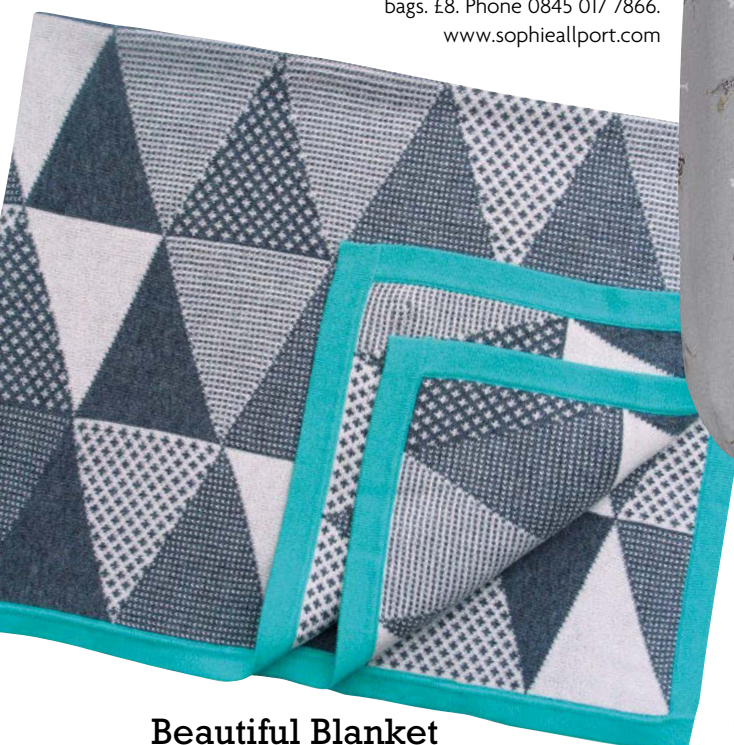


Blue Hue

The **Kartell** Fly pendant light in sage. Designed by Ferruccio Laviani, the transparent material and the cut off at the bottom of the pendant light ensure this light creates a stunning visual effect. Price on request. Phone Willie Duggan Lighting, Kilkenny 056 7764308. www.kartell.it

Handy Holder

Sophie Allport terrier carrier bag holder. Made from 100 per cent cotton. Holds approx 30 bags. £8. Phone 0845 017 7866. www.sophieallport.com



Beautiful Blanket

Mint baby blanket from **Littleville**. 100 per cent cotton. www.littleville.com.au



Green Fingers

Copper Terrarium & Votives from **Oliver Bonas**. From £8.50 - £36. Phone 020 8974 0110. www.oliverbonas.com

Milking It

Milk bottles from **The Contemporary Home**. Height of bottle, 14cm and with handle, 24cm. £5. Phone 023 9246 9400. www.tch.net



Classy Candle

Iittala Kivi tealight holder in light blue. Kivi's spectrum of colours and tactile forms enriches the glow of the candle as it multiplies the flickering flame. £10. www.iittala.com





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Top Towels

Selection of towels by **Morris & Co.** Price on request. Stockists located nationwide. For your nearest Irish stockist phone Dublin 01 2765811 or visit www.william-morris.co.uk



Luxurious Lounging

Red wool felt leaf cushion from **Nutmeg and Sage**. Comes complete with a luxury feather pad. £76. www.nutmegandsage.co.uk



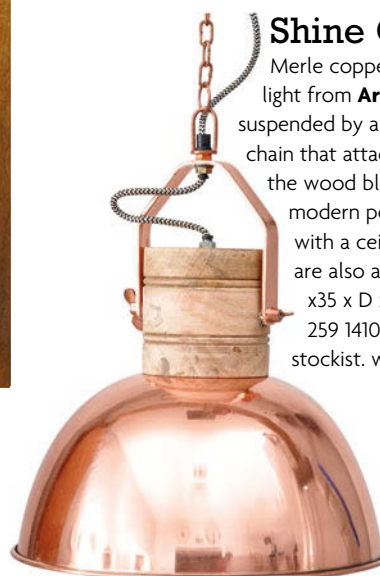
Making Waves

Wave six drawer chest from **Oliver Bonas**. £495. Phone 020 8974 0110. www.oliverbonas.com



Full Circle

Enzo swivel chair in red leather from **Darlings of Chelsea**. With a full 360 degree swivel in a huge range of leather colours. £1,025. Phone 020 7371 5745. www.darlingsofchelsea.co.uk



Shine On

Merle copper and wood pendant light from **Artisanti**. The lamp is suspended by a 1 metre copper finish chain that attaches to a bracket holding the wood block with wing nuts. The modern pendant light is supplied with a ceiling rose, and other sizes are also available. W x35cm x H x35 x D x43cm. £129. Phone 0845 259 1410 for your nearest Irish stockist. www.artisanti.com



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www.made.com



Fire Starter **Stovax** Huntingdon 30 in matt black with clear door, £1,449 incl VAT. Pembroke mantel in grey finish, £629 incl VAT. Euro prices on request. Phone Buckley Fireplaces, Dublin 01 2946863; Boyhill Cookers & Stoves, Lisnaskea 028 6772 3333; Co Wexford Fireplaces, Wexford 053 23555; Flames & Fireplaces, Banbridge 028 406 29080; Lamont Fireplaces, Coleraine 028 7032 8882 and Mourne Fires, Carryduff, 028 9081 5115. For further Irish stockists phone 013 9247 4000. www.stovax.com



White Hot

This cool and contemporary clock by **Karlsso** is double sided with a clock face on front and back. It also has the ability to position the faces for either wall or table mounting. £70.
Available from Quince Living. Phone 017 3844 9098 or visit www.quinceliving.co.uk



Goldie BIBA gold stem glasses and available from **House of Fraser**. £70 for a set of four. Euro price on request. Phone Belfast 0844 8003705, Dundrum 01 2991400. www.houseoffraser.co.uk

High Light

Gomez 3 light floor lamp in cream from **Där Lighting Group**. H x 146.2cm, D x 28cm.
£118.80. www.darlighting.co.uk



Get This

The Getie sofa from **Loaf**. £1,195.
Phone 0845 468 0698. www.loaf.com

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Red Hot

Marimekko Pieni Unikko red cushion. The cover is 100 per cent cotton and the insert is polyester fill which is all machine washable. Each cover is unique so pattern placement will vary. 50cm x 50 cms. £42.50. Euro price on request. Phone Inreda, Dublin 01 4760362. Maven Belfast 028 9066 5176. www.marimekko.fi/eng



Love It

Cotton Teal Love Tub from **Oliver Bonas**. Available in a selection of eight fabulous colours ranging from sophisticated neutrals to eye-popping brights with contrasting, cotton covered buttons. Handmade in the UK and upholstered with Designers Guild Cotton. £565. Phone 020 8974 0110. www.oliverbonas.com



Good Boy

Charley Chau raised wooden dog bed. Every piece of wood (from managed, sustainable sources) is cut and shaped using traditional carpentry methods and even the corners are sanded down to soften before the bed is finished with five coats of paint and finished in any colour from the Farrow & Ball Estate Eggshell Collection. From £260. Phone 0161 848 8702. www.charleychau.com



Colourful Cube

Candy Frost cube light from **Jasmine Way**. It can be used as a table lamp or you can hang it up on the wall. 49 LEDs are inside the cube and illuminate complex printed design - even in bright daylight. £63. Phone 020 8715 2520. www.jasmineway.co.uk



Purple Reign

Juliet chest of drawers in purple from **Living It Up**. £449. Phone 011 6269 5960. www.livingitup.co.uk



Doodle Dishcloth

Orange Doodle dishcloth from **Jangneus**. Made from 100 per cent natural materials. £2.95 Phone 018 6598 8074. www.jangneus.com



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Inhouse news

Are you a Home Bird?



Homebird.ie is a beautiful online shop full to the brim with expressive, eclectic homeware and gifts. They pride themselves on bringing you charming, well designed items with lots of personality for your home, yourself or that perfect gift. They also offer custom made and personalised posters and gifts. Husband and wife team Ronan and Orla Ward both have backgrounds in Interior Design, Art, Product Design and Graphic Design and have a real passion for what they do. Excellent customer service is at the heart of their business and they can deliver your order to your door with their international delivery. www.homebird.ie

DFS Expands in Ireland



DFS, Europe's largest sofa manufacturer and retailer has opened its fifth store on the island of Ireland, in Carrickmines Retail Park, Dublin. Bringing over 45 years of upholstery expertise to the Southside of Dublin, the new store will offer shoppers a large selection of sofas and chairs all handmade to order using traditional upholstery methods.

DFS is thrilled to be investing further in Ireland, bringing the number of stores on the island to five. The store in Carrickmines will provide the largest range of sofas on the Southside of the city, chosen to suit

all styles and budgets. All are showcased in stunning roomsets. To date, Irish consumers have responded really well to the DFS 'sofa for everyone' proposition as well as the in store experience and expertise. DFS own and manage the end to end service from design, manufacture, retail, delivery and after care of the product – they really are the sofa experts. With some exceptional opening offers during the winter sale which ends in February, DFS is looking forward to welcoming customers to their stores in Cork, Blanchardstown, Carrickmines, Derry and Belfast. www.dfs.co.uk/www.dfs.ie

Armagh Owned Rug House Invests £350,000



Irish online retailer The Rug House is set to take its virtual business into the real world with a significant investment of £350,000 in its first bricks and mortar store in Newry. The company which ships a record 150,000 rugs per year to 30 countries worldwide is capitalising on its major online success, which has powered business growth from selling on eBay to shipping over 3,000 rugs a week worldwide. The new purpose-built premises in Newry will have more than 1,600 rugs on display in a bespoke showroom which will serve the needs of customers looking to enhance their home or office interiors. Paul Vallely, owner The Rug House, said, 'Our focus to date has been on growing the business online and this has definitely paid off both through increasing sales and job creation. Customer requirements are changing and while we will continue to deliver our products globally and invest in our online sales, we recognise that there is a demand from customers who want to see the rugs before they purchase. The new store will showcase some of our own range of rugs that we have invested in developing with global partners as well as give us the chance to display a wider range of accessories that complement the trends in interiors.' The Rug House is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm and late night Thursday. www.rughouse.co.uk

Lisa Faulkner launches a two year multi-million pound campaign with Hotpoint



Cooking sensation Lisa Faulkner is working with Hotpoint to celebrate the stylish innovation and superior performance of their premium built-in appliances and the extensive new range of Hotpoint small appliances. The stamp of Italian style and high specification of these premium Hotpoint products boast not only great design but performance that lives up to its great looks. Already the author of the Sunday Times No.1 Bestseller, 'Recipes from my Mother for my Daughter', as well as the crowned winner of the 2010 Celebrity Masterchef, highly acclaimed connoisseur of the kitchen, Lisa, will be encouraging the nation to 'explore their cooking potential' with the help of easy to use and ultra stylish products like the Hotpoint Steam Blender and Slow Juicer. **Phone NI 08000 921 922 and ROI: 01 8627644. www.hotpoint.co.uk/www.hotpoint.ie**

Cosentino Launches Two Online Design Tools



The Cosentino Group is launching two new online tools that will allow users to design and create customised rooms. Using attractive visual elements, these simulators quickly combine colours and furniture finishes, countertops, floors, tiling, and other elements related to the room's

architecture and design. Conceived as much for the final client as for the professional, these tools are a great help for anyone involved in the process of creating interior or exterior spaces. The catalogue for both applications includes the entire range of colours and finishes for Silestone® quartz surfaces, Dekton® ultra-compact surfaces and recycled Eco by Cosentino® surfaces, as well as the complete Cosentino Bath Collection catalogue. Cosentino 3D Home is an iPad simulator created using advanced technology that allows users to design customised rooms that can be visualised with real-time images and Cosentino HD Home Viewer is a multi-platform simulator with high-resolution images through which rooms can be created using any online device. These two new online design tools allow users to design and create customised rooms combining different elements with the colours and finishes of Cosentino products.

www.HDViewer.cosentino.com and on all the Cosentino websites.

EMPORIUM

INTERIORS



Emporium Interiors, situated in Kilrea, offers a unique experience housing a modern interior shop in a lovely historic building. We are excited about our new interior design showroom which opened at the end of November with room sets showcasing exquisite curtains, pelmets, roman blinds, lighting, wallpaper and furniture displays. Why not avail of our Interior Design Service, Tracey Jane, if you need help at home or in store to select a colour palette, internal fixtures and fittings, or help with furniture layouts and of course choosing your important curtains fabrics and soft furnishings.

No better time to visit
Emporium Interiors with
20% off
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SALE
STARTS MONDAY
5TH JANUARY 2015!!



2-10 Maghera Street, Kilrea, Co. Derry, Northern Ireland, BT51 5QN
Phone: 028 2954 0119 www.emporiumni.com

OPENING TIMES

Mon-Sat 9.00am-5.30pm

(Closed Lunch 1.00pm-1.30pm) Friday late night until 7pm

HARLEQUIN

Sanderson

ROMO

GP & J BAKER

MULBERRY
HOME

Eco-friendly Inks

This handprinted light pink floral design cushion from In-Spaces has been screen printed using eco-friendly water based inks onto 100 per cent linen. Available in 14 inch or 18 inch. sizes. £32.

Phone 020 7268 3315. www.in-spaces.com



Pretty Projector

This salvaged Patt 123 British theatre projector by 'Strand' is available from Skinflint. With polished aluminium optic and an original Fresnel glass lens. Supplied tested and rewired with new screw lamp holders, two metres of industrial steel suspension chain, traditional twisted black braided cable and ceiling mounting plate. D x 20cm, L x 26cm and H x 32cm. £460.

**Phone 013 2631 4528.
www.skinflintdesign.co.uk**

Eco Weave



From Ambient Lounge is the acoustic sofa with eco weave. It has been designed with internal elastics for extra body, stability and shape in a bean bag and is made with thick quilting and premium fabric. £199.

**Phone 0844 870 186 for your nearest Irish stockist.
www.ambientlounge.co.uk**

Sky's the Limit

The Sky Jar lamp from In Spaces is a jar that is filled up with recycled glass, which would otherwise have gone to landfill. H 14 cm x D 8 cm. £150.

**Phone 020 7268 3315.
www.in-spaces.com**



Beaut Bowl

Bamboo fruit bowl in aqua from Puji. This eco-friendly, contemporary bowl is made from recycled bamboo. It is finished with an aqua outer colour with a contrasting natural bamboo interior. £20.

Phone 020 8886 3000. www.puji.com



Retro Rug

This cosy wool blanket rug from Ellie Ellie has been made from recycled wool, which has been re-spun to create individual check designs. The rugs are incredibly versatile and can be used as anything from a cosy blanket on a chilly evening to a picnic blanket in the summer. As they are recycled, no two rugs are the same, making them a great unique accessory for your home, or as house warming gifts. £24.

www.ellieellie.co.uk



AWARD WINNING DESIGN



PARKES
INTERIORS

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T: 028 9020 9209 | ROI: +44 (0) 28 9020 9209 | E: sales@parkesinteriors.co.uk
www.parkesinteriors.co.uk

Create the Style...

A rich warm enviroment to retreat to at the end of a hard day, with lots of metallics combining contemporary with classic style.



An exquisite bedroom design from **Designer Kitchen by Morgan** using furniture and accessories by The Sofa & Chair Company. Cezanne kingside headboard from £1,325 plus fabric; London Bed from £1,675 plus fabric; ivory Alpaca throw, £1,495; Valencia stool, from £1,205 plus fabric; Horizon bedside table, £1,625 and a selection of scatter cushions from £90. Phone Armagh 028 3753 9173. www.designer-kitchen.com



Luxury Lighting

This classic nickel finish table lamp with hide shade from **Darlings of Chelsea** is bang on trend, and will add a touch of luxury to your home. It's the perfect accessory for both a contemporary and traditional living space. H650mm x D3,250mm. £179. Phone 0207 3715745. www.darlingsofchelsea.co.uk



...in the bedroom



Sleepy Silks

Catch up on your beauty sleep with this Gingerlily pillowcase from **Lux Deco**. Not just a great way to prettify your bed, its silk construction means it's packed with natural lanolin, proven to help keep skin and hair soft and healthy. £59. Phone 0203 5861536. www.LuxDeco.com

By the Bed

Lola bedside table with drawer from Pied a Terre at **House of Fraser**. £469. Phone Belfast 028 9032 0224 and Dublin 01 299 1400. www.houseoffraser.co.uk



Time to Reflect

The Veneto mirrored glass rectangular mirror from **Artisanti** makes an elegant wall hanging that spreads double the light; from both its large looking glass and sloping mirrored frame. Every inch of this long modern mirror is shiny and reflective, making the minimal but dramatic design illuminate a room from its crisp lines. The mirror can be hung in landscape portrait orientation to provide either a functional or decorative mirrored masterpiece. W171 x D1 x H81cm. £477. Phone 0345 2591410. www.artisanti.com



Grand Designs

Elegant and grand, the soft natural linen upholstery upon this padded and buttoned headboard from **Sweetpea and Willow** give this piece a really superior finish. The winged sides are embellished wonderfully by the antiqued brass studding. £2,640. Phone 0845 2572627. www.sweetpeaandwillow.com

Create the Style...

A sleek, stylish bathing space perfect for urban living.



Simply Stylish

From **Porcellana Tile Studio**, Manhattan is a unique and sophisticated range offering a mix of traditional 10x30cm size brick with nine on trend mineral colours to create a contemporary style. Price on request. Phone Belfast 028 9024 0040. www.porcellanatilestudio.com

...in the bathroom

Retro Charm

If you're looking for a chair that can have an array of uses then look no further than the retro inspired Mason Leather Armchair in stunning coffee brown from **Puji**.
Phone 020 8886 3000.
www.puji.com



Make a Statement

This statement bath is made from Cian® solid surface material and has built in waste set in its solid walls. Measuring L1,804 x W850 x H615mm the Senator from **BC Designs** offers a large bathing area in which to relax. It is available with or without 'bun' feet. From £5,100. www.bcdesigns.co.uk



Sophisticated Showering

Sophisticated and modern, this freestanding bath filler from the One collection by **Kallista** is durable and reliable. Price on request. www.kallista.com



Bowled Over

A beautiful handmade lustre bowl from **Bath Aqua Glass**. £75. Phone 01225 428146. www.bathaquaglass.com



Turkish Towels

Authentic Hammam towels from **Loaf**. £15. Phone 0845 4680698. www.loaf.com





Time Warp

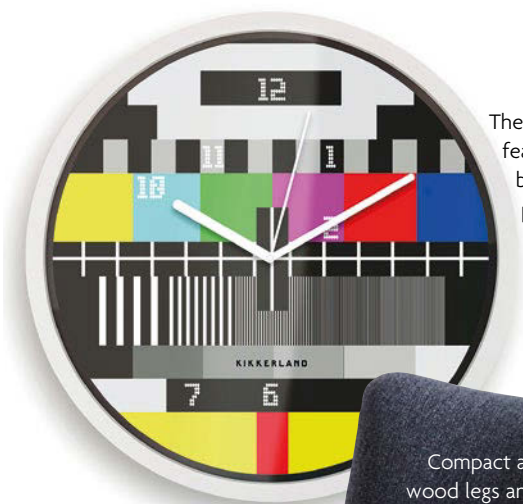
Look back over the decades for inspiration in your home. The retro trend is still strong and can be easily achieved with a few quirky pieces taken from the past.



A set of three retro storage jars for tea, coffee and sugar by Home Focus from **Hickeys**. Colourful and quirky ceramic canisters with top lids. €10.95. www.homefocus.ie



The View Quest ColourGen Retro Radio from **Harvey Norman** features DAB so you can listen to your favourite digital station or switch to FM radio. Access your music library via the 30-pin dock for iPod or iPhone or the 3.5mm aux input to connect any other audio device. €129.99. For your local Irish stockists visit www.harveynorman.ie



The face of this clock from **Designist** features a retro test screen graphic from back in the day. The clock has a white plastic case with matching hands and a glass front. Measures 8-inch diameter. www.designist.ie



Compact and comfy. Featuring solid wood legs and streamlined style, the Retro Wing armchair from **West Elm** combines mid-century simplicity with a traditional wingback silhouette. It's perfect for bedrooms and other cozy corners. Price on request. www.westelm.com

Cuckooland Attache record player in red. £79. www.cuckooland.com

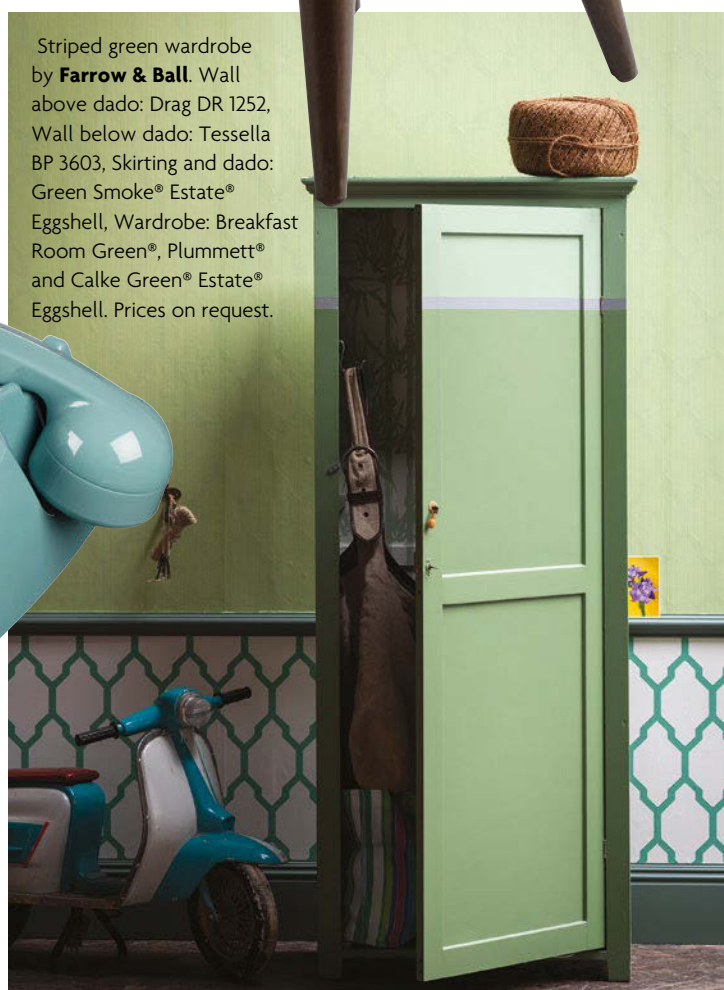


Charley Harper Cardinals cushion from **Hunky Dory Home**. £30. www.hunkydoryhome.co.uk



Retro blue French phone from **Berry Red**. Perfect for a retro or vintage setting. £55. www.berryred.co.uk

Striped green wardrobe by **Farrow & Ball**. Wall above dado: Drag DR 1252, Wall below dado: Tessella BP 3603, Skirting and dado: Green Smoke® Estate® Eggshell, Wardrobe: Breakfast Room Green®, Plummett® and Calke Green® Estate® Eggshell. Prices on request.





The Bearded Candle Makers

We chat to Michael and Mark about their company which makes beautiful bespoke candles.

'Our business started about a year ago from a shared passion of scent, creativity and design,' explains Michael. 'We wanted a project that would bring these elements together and we decided on candles. We learnt all the techniques in candle making (and made some new ones ourselves) and then started working on the packaging with an amazing graphic designer working on the logo. From the beginning we knew the scent would be the most important thing, so we sourced the best oils we could get and really studied the science of scent retention with natural waxes. Sustainability was always going to play a central role in our business and as such use soy wax from sustainable sources; we also hand stamp all our packaging using non toxic ink and we ask customers to return their empty tins to us for re-use by offering money off future purchases.'



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMPLE TAPESTRY

So how would they describe themselves as a company? 'We create scents based on stories, books, memories and places we love. We do this part backwards, in that we choose the candle/ scent name or story first, then we work on the scent. Many of our scents can take up to three months of 'scent profiling'. This is a technique created by us that allows us to balance scents that would not normally work well together. One of our most recent ones is simply called 'Surfing In The Rain', inspired by a surf trip we took to Dunfanaghy in Donegal.'

Mark continues, 'We find inspiration everywhere. Mostly from the amazing people we have met along this adventure. Recently we have started working on one called 'Wild Flowers of the Burren' after talking to two inspiring photographers who described the smells of the Burren so well, talking about the scent of the limestone, the salty taste in the air and the amazing flowers hiding amongst all of this. A lot of our inspiration comes from the West of Ireland. As well as this, books are a massive inspiration for us too, even the smell of old books! Stardust is one of our favourite scents and was based on the book of the same name which we both love. So much so that when we got engaged in a tiny roofless house overlooking the sea it was filled with our stardust candles.'

So what are their plans for the future? Michael concludes, 'We are starting to run classes and workshops with the main focus being scent and scent building. As well as that we are working on a new line of candles which will have a hint of Alchemy about them.'

COMPETITION



Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living Magazine along with The Bearded Candle Makers are offering one reader the chance to win the Wunderlust scented hand poured candle into an Amici recycled glass container worth £45. This is a complete one-off.

How to enter

Answer the following question:
The 'Surfing in the Rain' scent was inspired by a trip to which town in Ireland?

Send your answer, name, address, email and phone number marked **The Bearded Candle Makers Competition** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: www.ihil.net

Entries must be received no later than 5pm Friday 2nd January 2015. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are non-transferable.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter please include your email address with your entry.

Phone Belfast 07917 622203.
www.facebook.com/thebeardedcandlemakers
The Bearded Candle Makers also have a stall at St George's Market every Sunday.

WIN The Sophia Cuddler Sofa and Sophia Storage Footstool from DFS. Together worth over £890/€1,100.

New from the House Beautiful collection, exclusively at DFS, is the sleek and stylish Sophia. The cuddler sofa and footstool in steel (pictured) is the stunning prize for our lucky winner and will fit most room shapes and dimensions bringing a touch of elegance to any home. Handmade to order in the UK, the Sophia has been designed with versatile living in mind and is perfect for

modern family life, thanks to its graceful lines and soft hued palette. As well as being the perfect piece of furniture for ultimate comfort (whether you're cuddling up for romance or storytelling), it is also built to withstand the demands of family life. And, as comfort is its main aim, the winner can put their feet up on the handy storage footstool while relaxing into the two matching scatter cushions.



COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living together with DFS are offering one reader the chance to win a Sophia cuddler sofa and Sophia storage footstool in steel worth over £890/€1,100.

How to enter

Answer the following question:
How long does the free DFS frame and frame springs guarantee last?

Send your answer, name, address, email and phone number marked **DFS Competition** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: www.ihil.net

Entries must be received no later than 5pm, Friday 2nd January 2015. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are non-transferable.

If you would like to receive our monthly Newsletter please include your email address with your entry.

Sophia Cuddler Sofa
£649/€845.

Sophia Storage
Footstool £245/€319

Both the Sophia cuddler sofa and the Sophia storage footstool are available with light wood, dark wood or chrome feet at no extra cost and come with a free 10 year guarantee on frame and frame springs.

DFS has been handcrafting sofas for 45 years. Visit DFS in Derry, Belfast, Dublin (Blanchardstown and Carrickmines) and Cork or see www.dfs.co.uk or www.dfs.ie



Designer Kitchen by Morgan

With a string of international design awards to its credit Armagh based interior design firm Designer Kitchen by Morgan has proved how a small family run business can compete with the best and most prestigious names in the field of design.



Over the last number of years the company has gained an enviable reputation for its work and has designed and installed exquisite, award winning kitchens, bedrooms and interior design projects throughout Ireland and the UK.

In order to showcase the quality and diversity of the products and services provided the company have recently refurbished their existing studio in Keady and have opened a brand new showroom that provides a welcoming atmosphere to clients in need of some award winning design inspiration. The new showroom incorporates the exclusive work of both Designer Kitchen and sister company Morgan Interiors and has led to the development of the definitive luxury interiors brand Designer Kitchen by Morgan.

Designer Kitchen by Morgan delivers a full interior design service from award winning bespoke kitchens and custom made furniture to curtains, soft furnishings and a complete turnkey design and fit out service; every package can be individually tailored to suit the needs of each client and the budget they have in mind.

The new studio provides a unique insight into the company's very cosmopolitan approach to design with many of the finishes and ideas delivering a little slice of London style and New York glamour right into the heart of rural Armagh.

The new showroom is also home to Designer Kitchen by Morgan's own exclusive collection of bespoke furniture. The new furniture collection has been exclusively designed using exotic and traditional finishes and showcases the diversity and quality of the company's work.

Speaking about the developments design director Darren Morgan said; 'We have been working on this for some time and have completely remodelled our studio in Keady to showcase our designs. From the outset we always wanted to create an intimate atmosphere and avoid adopting any showroom clichés; we want to protect our design process so that it remains a relaxed and very personal experience for our clients allowing ideas to be explored and finishes to be considered without any product restrictions or sales pressure. We adopt a practical approach to each project and aim to deliver exceptional quality and unbeatable value for money in everything we do.'

To complement the opening of their new showroom and the launch of their new furniture collection this innovative Armagh Company has also launched a brand new website which showcases its wide range of services and the calibre of its work. All of these exciting developments come with the news that the company has received a third consecutive nomination for the SBID International Design Excellence Awards and is also a finalist in the prestigious International Design and Architecture Awards 2014.

Designer Kitchen by Morgan
4 Upper Darkley Road
Keady
Co Armagh
BT60 3RE

Phone 028 3753 9173
www.designer-kitchen.com
Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday 10am-2pm

All studio consultations are by appointment only.

IRELAND'S HOMES INTERIORS & LIVING

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38

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*The
Cosy Issue*

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Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine has now gone digital, offering you access to inspirational pages of Irish interiors across a range of devices wherever you may be. Whether in the comfort of your own home or on the move, your favourite interiors magazine is now at your fingertips.

View sample pages for free, or subscribe to enjoy the whole magazine on the go!

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Get it on your iPad, iPhone, Android device or PC



Interiors Fair Round Up

Looking towards the new year, we can't help but look forward to the upcoming trade shows for consumer goods in 2015.

Discover the trends that will be taking over the interiors market over the coming months at imm Cologne, the first furnishing show of the year. At imm Cologne you can expect both market-ready new launches and furnishing trends that will be shaping the future, with inspiring interior design ideas for trendsetters. Business owners will find ideas on how to boost business, as well as established solutions. The show covers everything from self-assembly furniture all the way to premium brands and visionary product design.

imm Cologne 2015 will run from 19 - 25 January 2015, Cologne.

Ambiente 2015 will return once again to Messe, Frankfurt as the world's leading consumer-goods event. It is expected to have over 4,700 exhibitors, with sections dedicated to Dining, Living and Giving. Last year, Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living enjoyed every aspect of the event, seeing incoming trends first hand along with product demonstrations and designer talks, and this year is expected to be equally as exciting. There will be presentations showing off the most important trends in the kitchen, home and giving segments, with innovative ideas for interior design. **Ambiente 2015 will be running from 13 - 17 February 2015, Frankfurt.**



Sale Starts
29th December



WIN 1 of 4 €310/£250 vouchers for The Rug House

Our range of over 2,000 luxurious rugs are available online and instore, showcasing all types and styles of rugs to suit all tastes.

Shop online or instore at Newry.

www.therughouse.co.uk



COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living Magazine along with The Rug House are offering four lucky readers' the chance to win a voucher worth €310/£250.

How to enter

Answer the following question:
On which date does The Rug House sale start?

Send your answer, name, address, email and phone number marked **Rug House Competition** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living Magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: www.ihil.net

Entries must be received no later than 5pm Friday 2nd January 2015. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are non-transferable. Competition entrants may be contacted by The Rug House. Please state on your entry if you do not wish for your details to be passed on.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter please include your email address with your entry.

PERSIAN • MODERN • TRADITIONAL • SHAGGY • SHEEPSKIN • COWHIDE



Cosy Special

This issue we bring you all you need to make your home warm and comfortable this winter.

From **Neptune**, Sophia arm chairs from £525/€650 each; Henley coffee table from £525/€650; Bloomsbury Lamp from £105/€135 and Alpine Throw, £65/€85. www.neptune.com



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Expert advice from Denise O'Connor.



Take a Seat!

For a cosy home setting choose some soft seating to complement the room.

The Gower armchair in natural check from **DFS**. £998.



Normann Copenhagen present the new Era rocking chair. Available in a range of upholstery, in true Normann Copenhagen fashion.

The Bedford three-seater sofa is an exquisite piece of quality craftsmanship from **Harvey Norman**. Made from 100% genuine leather, each piece is one of a kind as the natural characteristics from the original material. £1,595/€1,975.

Buying a new sofa for your living room is an investment, and first and foremost people tend to look at style and colour, but it is very important to consider other factors when choosing your new sofa.

Consider the space you have and the size you need; smaller rooms may benefit from a corner sofa, or you may have a big space and prefer to go for a suite.

Sofas and chairs do not need to match, having chairs that simply complement the sofa, along with the rest of the room, can add a new dimension and a bit of character to the room. As well as adding textures and layers with the help of cushions and throws.

As open-planned living is growing ever more popular, a great way to create room division is with the use of your sofa. Having it strategically placed can create the illusion of boundaries between dining and living areas.



The upholstered Bramerton armchair from **Lux Deco** is a classic design with a thoroughly contemporary mindset. £1,980.



Abigail Ahern
Abigail three seat
sofa in Hudon £1,810
and Maud rectangular
footstool in Dusty Rose.
£255 from sofa.com



Accento from **Natuzzi** is a simple, light, open base sofa. It is available in two or three seater versions that guarantee maximum compactness, perfect for smaller living spaces. The adjustable arms give “made to measure” relaxation for an additional guarantee of comfort. £2,080.

The Ingrid two seater sofa
from **Roche Bobois**. €3,000.
Sterling price on request.



This beautiful John Rocha corner sofa is available from **Debenhams**. £2,720. Also pictured is John Rocha coffee table £480, Rug £200, Champagne wire bowl £28, Glass hurricane lamp £22, Cyclinder vase £14, Hammered votives £6 - £12, Tealight holders £7 - £18, Cushions £25 - £35, Chunky knit throw £100, Scratch silver lamp £68.

The snugly Schnuffle from **Loaf**. £145.



The STRANDMON armchair from **IKEA** is luxurious and practical. Available in dark blue, orange, natural and grey. £195/€220.



With a unique and striking design, this Class sofa from **Lomi Design** is available in a large range of fabrics and leathers. Fabric covers are fully removable. There are also complementary armchairs and sofas with high or low backs. Legs are available in walnut or varnished metal. €3,374. Sterling price on request.



Halston two seater sofa in midnight blue from **MADE.com**. £599.



The Burnham range from **Alison at Home**, consisting of two and three seater sofas, a quirky armchair and an effortlessly stylish ottoman bench. The whole range is upholstered in a mushroom coloured polyester. Price on request.



Souffle sofa with removable cover from **Loaf**. £1,220.



From luxury Italian furniture manufacturer Vibieffe is the Opera Chair and Footstool available from **Go Modern**. From £2,980.



Laura Ashley Kingham two seater sofa in Caitlyn Berry. A beautiful, rich statement sofa with comfort. £1,850.





Charlotte Linen 3 seater sofa in natural oat from **Neptune**. £1,595/€1,995.




Aurelia armchair from **House of Fraser**.
£499/EURO.



Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen
Scarpa fabric armchair. £549.

The Fragrant Home

Give each space in your home
a different feel with your
choice of fragrance.



Tom Dixon scented candle, £55; Bloomingville cream knitted blanket, £149; Autrement Dit Lapland stag cushion, £52; Lene Bjerre Mîe off-white throw, £113, all www.occa-home.co.uk



Emma Bridgewater Live Well Look Well black iris room diffuser from **M&S**. £18. www.marksandspencer.com

Irish candle company **Max Benjamin** has launched the 'Tea Collection' – a beautiful range of candles infused with tea fragrances. Available in assam & lemon, lime flower and lavender, raspberry and ginseng, serene jasmine and Victorian earl grey. €15. www.maxbenjamin.co.uk



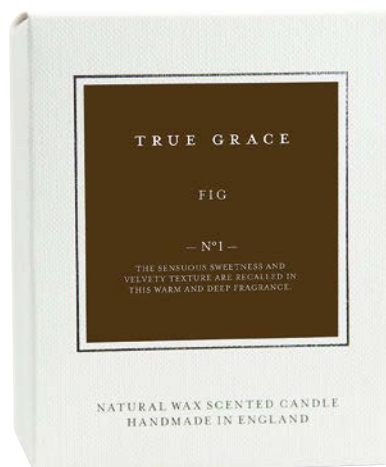
Carolyn Donnelly eclectic flower diffuser from **Dunnes Stores**. £10/€12. www.dunnesstores.ie



Winter scented candle from Jaeger at **The OUTLET, Banbridge**. Was £25 Now £15. www.the-outlet.co.uk



Kenneth Turner three wick candles from **Sweetpea & Willow**. £95. www.sweetpaandwillow.com



True Grace candle in fig from **Maven**. £25/€31. www.wearemaven.co.uk



Jo Malone lime, basil and mandarin home candle. £40. www.jomalone.co.uk





White geranium room spray from **The White Company**. £15. www.thewhitecompany.com



Penhaligons Assam tea candle. £87. www.penhaligons.com



Laura Ashley mulberry and damask rose diffuser. £20. www.lauraashley.com

Fragrance is a powerful way to set a mood. The secret is to concentrate just the right amount of scent in the right area so the effect is harmonious rather than overwhelming.

Burn bright. No one wants to be accosted by a smell, and the method you choose to scent your home matters as much as the particular smell. Beeswax or soy-wax candles give off a lasting fragrance and burn more cleanly than paraffin ones. Snuff them out when you've had enough, or even leave them unlit.

Experiment with oils. If you prefer to use natural oils, one of the simplest ways to diffuse them is to add several drops to a small glass or ceramic bowl of heated, not boiling, water and let the steam fill the room. Or place a few cotton balls sprinkled with oils inside an unlit burner.

Know your place. In the bedroom, florals are romantic, spices can be very seductive, and lavender and chamomile are calming and as good as counting sheep! Citruses and sage freshen the bathroom nicely; dab a few drops of essential oil inside the toilet paper roll. When you're giving a dinner party, go with a fresh scent that won't clash with your cuisine. Rose geranium has a hint of green that is almost like a palette cleanser after a meal.

When in doubt, choose citrus. Lemon, grapefruit, orange, bergamot, and lime complement nearly any setting or occasion because they refresh, soothe, and smell clean all at once. It's really rare that someone won't like the smell of citrus in the air.

Kelly Hoppen glass bauble vase/diffuser. £38. www.kellyhoppen.com



Kate Spade lily scented candle from **Amara**. £45. www.amara.com



Sophie Allport scented candles are available in the following aromas: fig and ginger, pomegranate, cinnamon and orange, eucalyptus and lemongrass. £20. www.sophieallport.com

Hot Stuff!

A selection of range cookers to help you complete, and heat, your kitchen.

Smeg's Traditional dual fuel single cavity range cooker. Comes in cream or black. Price on request.



Nothing makes a warm and homely kitchen quite like a luxurious range cooker. Choosing the right range cooker is a matter of knowing the difference between what's available:

- There are electric range cookers which are fast and easy to clean, with even heat distribution, giving a modern focal point to any kitchen.
- Gas range cookers are more traditional, using gas burners and ovens. They are very responsive but the ovens don't heat up as quickly as electric. Perfect for a classic styled kitchen, and there are many colour options out there now too.
- Dual fuel range cookers give the best of both worlds, these combine the responsiveness of gas cookers and the quick-to-heat electric oven.

1 Mercury 1082 dual fuel range in Blueberry and Snowdrop. Price on request. **2 Beko** has launched its first ever range cooker, designed to help save time and money and offer multi-tasking families greater versatility at mealtimes. From £749 - £799. Euro price on request. **3** The new freestanding **Rangemaster** 60cm range will be available from September 2014 from £799/€1,005. **4 Candy** CCGM52PX range cooker. Price on request. **5** Dual fuel **Falcon** 1092 range cooker. Price on request.



1



2



3



4



5



1



2

1 Wolf ICBDF304 762mm dual fuel range with 6 dual stacked burners. 98 litre self-cleaning oven, 10 cooking modes, digital temperature probe. £8,125/€7,930 including VAT. **2** Known for manufacturing the highest quality range cookers, **Leisure** has recently launched its A La Carte collection which is available in 60cm, 90cm and 100cm in different fuel types and colours to suit any kitchen. From £479 - £849. Euro price on request. **3 CDA** RV1200, 1200mm wide family range that is packed with features. The hob has five gas burners and a ceramic griddle zone with 12 power levels, a wok burner, auto ignition, cast iron pan supports and flame failure. The range has three electric ovens – the main oven has eight features including fan, fan with grill, conventional heat etc. The second oven has four functions including fan and grill, and the third oven has four functions – top heat, bottom heat, grill, conventional heat. There is also a useful storage drawer. The range is finished in black and stainless steel. £2100/€1820. **4 Bertazzoni** Professional Series X90 electric range cooker. Price on request. **5 Caple's** ceramic top CR9227 combines all the features of a traditional range cooker with an ultra modern finish. One double oval radiant zone, one double circular radiant zone and three single radiant zones make up five ceramic plates on the easy-to-clean flush surface. With a 59-litre capacity, there are eight functions on the main oven – conventional heat, turbo conventional heat, fan heat, top plus fan heat, grill, turbo grill, turbo defrost and light. Meanwhile, the 35-litre capacity oven features five functions, including conventional heat and a rotisserie grill. The CR9227 is priced from around £1,566/€1,967.



3



4

Expert's Comment

Craig Davies, MD Sub-Zero & Wolf UK

Look for a range that offers pyrolytic self cleaning, ideally with seamless burner pans which are very easy wipe round after cooking as there are no joins or seams for food to gather. Hot water and washing up liquid will clean most grease marks, and a gentle granular paste will remove stubborn stains.

The best type of range is a dual fuel model, which offers a gas cooking surface, combined with electric ovens. It's important to look for models which include dual stacked, sealed burners to give unrivalled control from melting chocolate to searing heat for sautee or fast boiling. Options such as a gas charbroiler are perfect for indoor bbq steaks, salmon, tuna and vegetables. Or a gas griddle, which can handle anything from blinis to english breakfasts, steaks, fish, prawns, egg fried rice, in fact anything and everything.



5





4

1 Waterford Stanley Brandon Condensing range cooker, with the ability to heat up to 16 radiators! £5,950/€7,115. **2 Hoover** HVD9395IV 90cm range cooker. From £1400. Euro price on request. **3 Britannia** Delphi 100cm dual fuel twin range cooker in stainless steel. £3,999. Euro price on request. **4 Smeg's** new Victoria range cooker lets tradition meet technology, coming complete with an induction hob. Available in gloss cream and gloss black. Price on request. **5** The BCD1025SS 100cm dual fuel twin cavity stainless steel range cooker from Baumatic. Features fashionable extra large rotary controls, with retro analogue thermometer to provide a professional look for the kitchen. **6** Freestanding dual fuel range cooker from **Cannon** is perfect for any busy kitchen. Comes with a 50 litre fan oven and 50 litre conventional oven, six gas burners and a griddle pan. £1,078. Euro price on request.



5



6



Happy Feet

Nothing keeps a room cosier than soft flooring. Be sure to browse this selection of carpets and rugs to complete your cosy look.

Fata Morgana Tj Two carpet from **mooi**. Price on request.



1 Rose & Grey Diagonal Diamond rug. £135. **2** Grey Scale trend rug from **BHS** is perfectly in style for this winter season. Price on request. **3** The Eichholtz collection from **Occa Home**, including the Eichholtz carpet in Trianon black. From £1,000.



There are many, many styles and colours of carpet, ranging from classic to contemporary, along with different textures and durability - so it can be quite the daunting task.

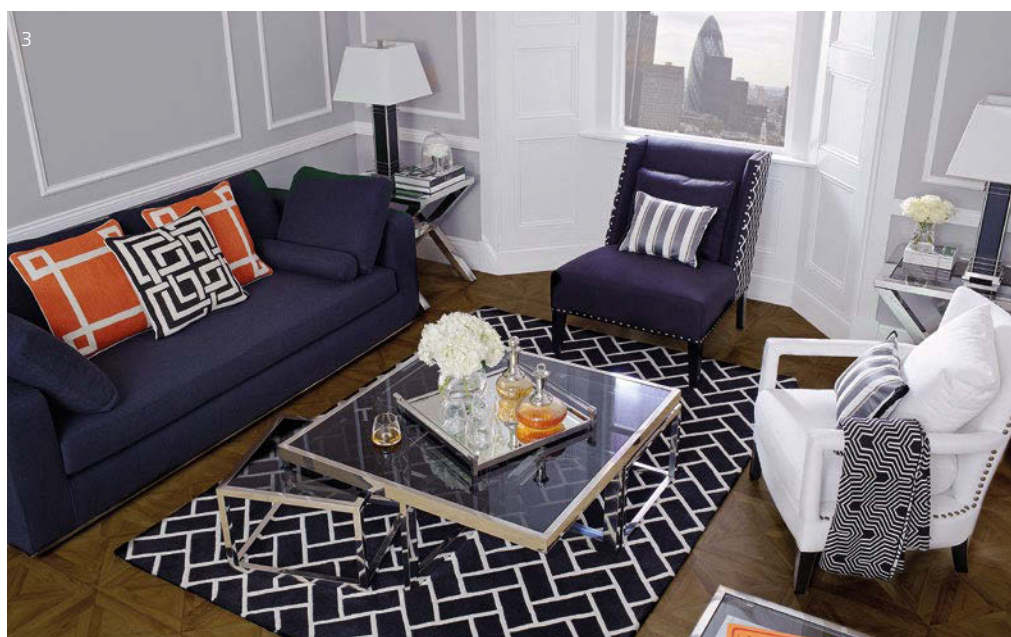
When choosing your carpet, consider the room it is going to be in; the foot fall, and how hard wearing it needs to be.

Carpets are great at eliminating drafts, keeping the heat in rooms a lot easier- making for a cozy foundation to a room. It also helps reduce noise levels, unlike wooden or tiled floors.

Rugs are a great way to enhance the decor of a room. You can add in a brightly colour or bold-patterned rug as a statement piece, adding character to the room. You can create contrasting lines with rugs and like wise you can add in neutral rugs that blend into the surroundings.

If you have an open planned living area you can also use rugs to create the illusion of room division.

Adding a rug to a tiled floor can help keep heat in a room, while adding a soft touch. The choices are endless in styles, colours and designs.

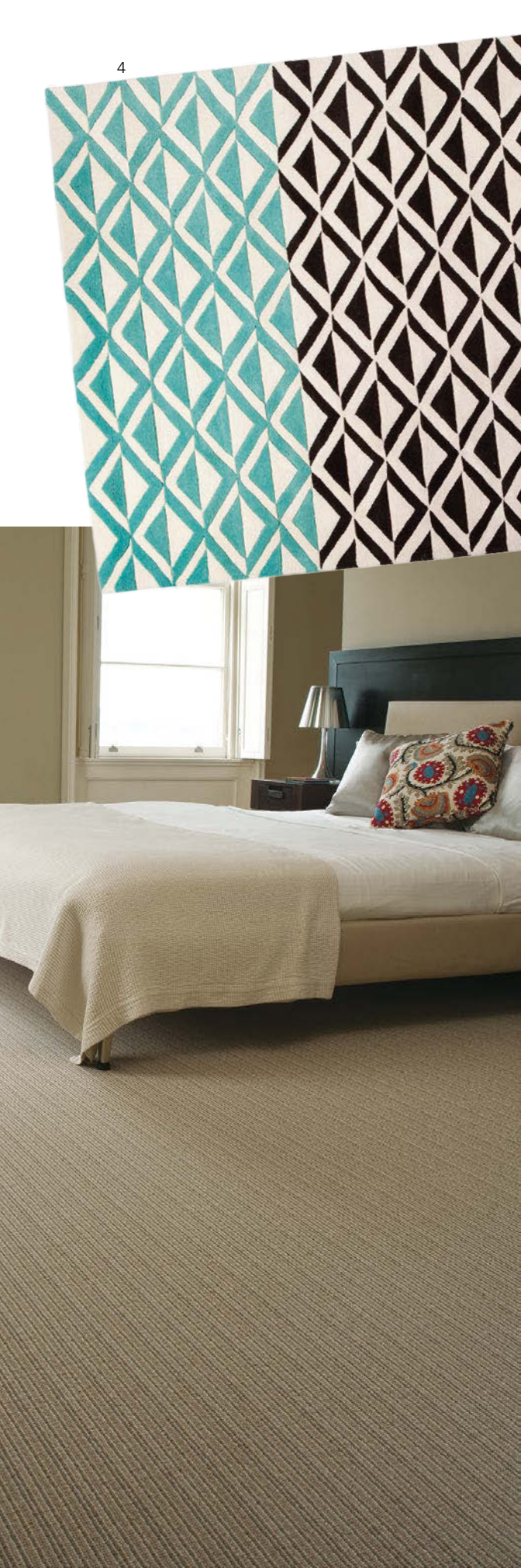




1 Brintons' Timorous Beasties Collection in Linen Damask from **Carpet Foundation**. £95 per m². Euro price on request. **2** This super soft shaggy rug from **The Rug House** is every homeowners dream, It gives warmth, softness and style to any room. This luxurious rug is made with extra long 7cm silky pile. Price on request. **3** **Ulster Carpets** Open Spaces Wellington Stripe in Linnet. £41/€53 per m². **4** Monographic rug from **Made.com**, Verdigris Blue 170 x 240cm. £249. **5** **Crown Floors** Golden Sand from the Crown Wilton collection. £30/€38 per m².



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1 Lomi Design's Canadian rug is 100 per cent woven wool. It is available in three sizes and is reversible. €395. Sterling price on request. **2** The new Weft geometric style rug from **Floor Story**, inspired by the Ben-Day print technique used on Bollywood posters, swapping circles for squares in Sage and Charteuse colourways. £995. **3** Create a neutral foundation with Forest Hill carpet from **Cormar Carpets**. Price on request. **4** The cosy ADUM high pile rug from **IKEA** will add a feeling of





warmth to your living room. Also available in other shapes and colours. £50/€60. **5** La Dolce Vita from **Adam Carpets** is a classical scroll design that is available in ten contemporary colours and brings a touch of class to any room. It is made with a high quality 2-ply 80/20 wool rich yarn and comes in either 4m or 5m widths. **6** Jacaranda Simla Ivory & Simla Atlantic Blue Rug available at **Browsers**. Price on request.



Dress it Up

Curtains and blinds can really add to the overall look of a room, and with the amount of options available, it is easy to feel overwhelmed when trying to choose. You have many things to consider: size, length, colour, fabric, texture and weight.



Nina Campbell fabrics, ideal for cozy window dressings. Price on request.



1 Quirky Dovetail curtains from **Osborne & Little**. Price on request.
2 ROMO present the beautiful Izora fabrics, which can be made into soft window dressings. Price on request. **3** 89mm shutter in clay from **Santa Fe Shutters**. Price on request.



Consider the fabric before you buy. The type of fabric you choose will determine how the curtains fall and their functionality, how much light you want to let in and whether they will be drawn or not.

Colours can fade over time when exposed to sunlight, so bare this in mind when choosing for specific rooms. If that room gets a lot of sun flowing through, it is best to avoid bright colours as they usually fade faster.

Choosing a heavy fabric will help keep heat in, as well as light. Any fabric can be lined though, and a lining between the outer-lining and the curtain can help prolong the life of the curtain even more.

As for colour and style, you can go for a neutral look to complement the room, or you can go for something a bit more stand out- a bright colour or geometric pattern.

Blinds create a smooth clean look as a window treatment option. Although some people choose to double up, having both blinds and curtains. Blinds don't have to be plain either, there are lots of patterned options now, so be sure to explore what's available before settling.

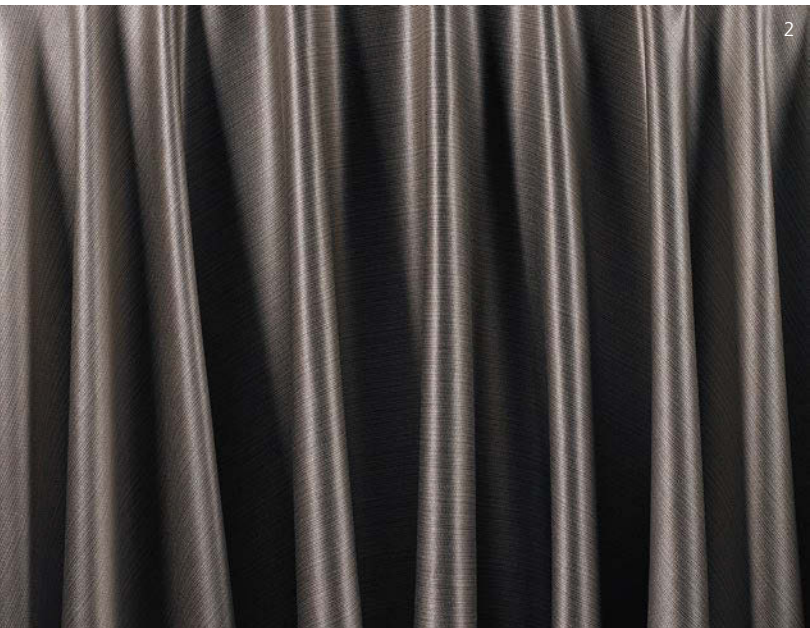






1 In a painterly style, Desire from **The Black Edition**. Price on request. **2** Momentum 5 & 6 from **Harlequin**. Curtains: are Mika 131371, 131377 £49 / €64 per metre. Wallpaper is Koto 110894 £75/€98 per roll. Cushion is in Osamu 131443 £54/€70 per metre. **3** Roller blinds in 'Sunara Hotan' from **The Fabric Box**. 61cm x 61cm. £90/€122. **4** Larsen have a beautiful collection of fabrics for all areas of the home. Featured is the Edison yellow and green curtain, sofa in Atmosphere and a selection of fabrics on cushions. Price on request. **5** Wooden venetian blind in 'Matumi', a Zebrano veneer from **Timberlux**. 61cm x 61cm. From £180/€244. **6** Cosy fabrics collection from **Casadeco**. Price on request.







1 QMotion automated wire-free blinds. The blinds are controlled by remote, operated by battery, or you can download an app to your iphone or android device - innovative interiors! From £674.
2 Jazz silks and sheers from **Mark Alexander** add a luxurious touch to any room. Price on request.
3 The Dolomite, gold and grey, leafy-design curtain from **Jane Churchill**. Price on request.
4 Atom drapes from **Kirkby Design**. Price on request.
5 Old Blue Pascale Stripe curtains from **Colefax and Fowler**. Price on request.
6 Perfect for adding an air of grandeur to any home, this pair of fully functional curtains from **Beaufort Interiors** ooze glamour. In two-tone textured gold with black and gold trimmings, the handmade curtains are interlined and hand-pleated with tall goblet headings tied high and fanned onto floor. £960/€1,200.
7 Avalon Curtain from **Zinc Textile**. Price on request.



Cream and beige Lene Bjerre cushions from **The Elms**. Prices on request. www.theelms.ie

Snug and Stylish

The perfect additions to making your home even cosier are cushions and throws. Not only do they add to the comfort but they work as an easy way to change up the look of a room by adding colour and character. Check out some of these cozy comforts we have selected.



Penny Farthing cushion from **Hipster Spinster**.
£25 for cover only, £35 filled with feather inner.
www.hipsterspinster.com



The Ice Queen throw from **The French Bedroom Company** is cool and steely but soft and warm, emulating a solitary polar bear. £99.
www.thefrenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

Grey and black line cushion from **CA Design**. £125.
www.cadesign.ie



Laura Ashley Sherwood natural throw.
£45. www.lauraashley.co.uk



Quirky prism strip cushion from **Rose & Grey**. £48.
www.roseandgrey.co.uk



Blue and red chevron cushion
 from **Oliver Bonas**. £32.
www.oliverbonas.com



Handwoven wool throw from **In-Spaces**.
 Available in lots of cozy colours. £20.
www.in-spaces.com



The new ZigZag
 throw from **Jaeger**. £245.
www.jaeger.co.uk

Liven up your home with **Normann Copenhagen's** stunning new Angle cushion collection. The fresh design has various geometric shapes that create a graphic feel. £58/€74. Phone Liberties, Westport 098 50273; Lost Weekend, Blackrock 01 2755818 and Ubode, Dublin 01 7755251. www.normann-copenhagen.com



Tesco throw 3D applique cushion grey. £12 and Scotty dog cushion. £12. www.tesco.co.uk



A selection of soft home furnishings from **Occa Home**. Designers Guild Boratti chalk cushion, £55; Lelievre City blanc cushion, £50.50; Niki Jones Nimbus cushion - black and ecru, £95; Timorous Beasties Napoleon Bee cushion, £108; Tom Dixon stripe rug rectangular black/white, £1,600; Elvang classic throw, £90. www.occa-home.co.uk





BJ+RNLOKA cushion covers from **IKEA**. £3/€5. Phone Belfast 0845 3551113 or Dublin 1890 987 938. www.ikea.co.uk www.ikea.ie

Portman alpaca throw from **The Fine Cotton Company**, a beautiful addition to any living room. £180. www.thefinecottoncompany.com



Heritage and Oil pillows from **Moooli**. Price on request. Phone Inreda, Dublin 01 4760362 and Minima, Dublin 01 6337716. www.moooli.com

The comforting Bamboo Aubergine throw from **Marquis and Dawe**. Price on request. www.marquisdawe.co.uk



STOCKISTS

A

Adam Carpets

01562 822247.
www.adamcarpets.com
Alison at home
www.alisonathome.com

B

Baumatic

Potter Cowan, Belfast 028 9037 0050,
Dublin 01 8423666 and Cork 021 4354560.
www.baumatic.co.uk

Beaufort Interiors

Moirs 028 9261 9508.
www.beaufortinteriors.co.uk

Beko

ROI 01 8623411 (s). NI 045 600 4904 (s).
www.beko.co.uk www.beko.ie

Bertazzoni

Bodel Distributors, Lisburn 028 9267 2412 (s).
www.bertazzoni.com

BHS

www.bhs.co.uk

Britannia

Bodel Distributors, Lisburn 028 9267 2412 (s).
Dominic Smith, Dublin, 01 2965511 and
Gorey 053 9484444.
www.britannialiving.co.uk

Browsers

Limerick 0353 61414490.
www.browsers.ie

C

Candy

Dominic Smith Electrical, Dublin
01 2965511 and Gorey 053 9484444.
www.candy-domestic.co.uk

Cannon

www.cannoncooking.co.uk

Caple

0117 938 1900 (s).
www.caple.co.uk

Carpet Foundation

Dales Carpets, Newtownards 02891 815131.
Finaghy Furnishings, Belfast 02890 614527.
Ideal Carpets Ltd, Limavady 028 77767651.
Inspirational Furnishings, Ballymena
028 2564 0206 and Larne 028 28272405.
J & K Housefurnishers Ltd,
Newcastle 0284 3723210.
Jack McGinn & Co, Omagh 028 82242180.
Jim Coulter Complete House Furnisher,
Lisnaskea 0286 7723011.
Linton & Robinson Ltd,
Strabane 028 7138 4920.
McCracken Flooring, Bangor 0289 1273057.
Right Price Carpets & Furniture Ltd,
Coleraine 028 7034 4482 and
Belfast 028 9075 2777.
Robert Spratt Carpets,
Newtown Stewart 028 816 61101.
Rugland, Kilkeel 02841 765020.
SE Quirk Limited, Dublin 00353 12942801.
Seymour Dugan, Lisburn 02892 663587.
Smith's of Omagh Limited,
Omagh 028 8224 0070.
TG Hawthorne, Armagh 02837 526542.
Warden Bros Ltd, Newtownards 028 9181 2147.
www.carpetfoundation.com

Casadeo

NI 08443 690 102 (s).
ROI 0818 200 056 ROI (s).
www.casadeo.com

CDA

Bodel, Lisburn 028 9267 2412.
www.cda-europe.com

Colefax and Fowler

Beaufort Interiors, Moira 028 9261 9508.
Clare Daly, Enniskillen 028 6632 6242.
Beaufort Interiors, Craigavon 028 9261 9508.
Essence Interiors, Lisburn 028 92660888.
Home Decor Centre, Omagh 028 8224 3832.
H. McCartney Interiors,
Enniskillen 02866 385 805.
Ian Thompson Interiors,
Belfast 028 9066 9069.
Gareth McFarland, Moygashel 028 8775 0077.
www.colefax.com

Cormar Carpets

John Casey, Cork 0214 910590.
John Murphy Carpets, Waterford 05 1855600.
Small Cost Carpets, Coleraine 028 7035 6479.
The Carpet Showrooms, Dublin 01 8050420.
www.cormarcarpets.co.uk

Crown Floors

www.crownfloors.co.uk (s).

D

Debenhams

ROI 1890 946779 (s). NI 084 4561 6161 (s).
www.debenhams.com www.debenhams.ie

DFS

Belfast 028 9068 7472, Derry 028 7131
0950, Cork 021 4359306 and
Dublin 01 6404232.
www.dfs.co.uk www.dfs.ie

F

Falcon

Dominic Smith Electrical Ltd, Dublin
01 2965511 and Gorey 053 9484444.
Ian A Kernohan, Bangor 028 9127 0233.
Kildress Plumbing, Cookstown 028 8675 2000.
www.falconappliances.co.uk

Floor Story

www.floorstory.co.uk

G

Go Modern

www.gomodern.co.uk

H

Harlequin

Alan Espey Interiors,
Newtownards 028 9181 5076.
Interiors by Marie, Galway 091 766786.
Dekor Distribution, Dublin 01 4515644.
The Fabulous Fabric Company,
Ballymakeera 026 45235.
Hampton Furnishings, Lisburn 028 9267 2220.
Mix 'n' Match Interiors, Meath 01 8259553.
Roycroft Interiors, Lisburn 028 9266 9595.
www.harlequin.co.uk

Harvey Norman

www.harveynorman.ie

Hoover

Dominic Smith Electrical,
Dublin 01 2965511 and Gorey 053 9484444.
www.hoover.co.uk

House of Fraser

Belfast 0844 8003705, Dundrum 01 2991400.
www.houseoffraser.co.uk

I

IKEA

Belfast 0845 3551113. Dublin 1890 987 938.
www.ikea.co.uk www.ikea.ie

J

Jane Churchill

Beaufort Interiors, Moira 028 9261 9508.
Clare Daly, Enniskillen 028 6632 6242.
Essence Interiors, Lisburn 028 92660888.

The Fabulous Fabric Company,
Ballymakeera 026 45235.
Home Decor Centre,
Omagh 028 8224 3832.
H. McCartney Interiors,
Enniskillen 02866 385 805.
www.janechurchill.com

K

Kirkby Design

www.kirkbydesign.com

L

Larsen

Beaufort Interiors, Moira 028 9261 9508.
Thompson Clarke Interiors,
Belfast 028 9045 0060.
Orior By Design, Newry 028302 62620.
www.larsenfabrics.com

Laura Ashley

0871 230 2301 (s).
www.lauraashley.com

Laurance Llewelyn-Bowen

www.llb.co.uk

Leisure

NI 0845 600 4916 (s). ROI 01 825 3700 (s).
www.leisurecp.co.uk

Loaf

www.loaf.com

Lomi

Dublin 01 8397001.
www.lomi.ie

Lux Deco

www.luxdeco.com

M

Made.com

www.made.com

Mark Alexander

01623 756 699 (s).
www.markalexander.com

Mercury

www.mercuryappliances.co.uk (s).

moool

Inreda, Dublin 01 4760362.
Minima, Dublin 01 6337716.
www.moool.com

N

Natuzzi

Arnotts, Dublin 01 805 0400.
House of Fraser, Belfast 028 9032 0224.
The 1933 Furniture Company,
Navan 046 9093012.
Square Deal Interiors, Cork 021 4274045.
01322 312550 (s).
www.natuzzi.co.uk

Neptune

www.neptune.com

Nina Campbell

Alan Espey Interiors,
Newtownards 028 9181 5076.
Hampton Furnishings, Lisburn 028 9267 2220.
Home Decor Centre, Omagh 028 8224 3832.
www.ninacampbell.com

Normann Copenhagen

Liberties, Westport 098 50273.
Lost Weekend, Blackrock 01 2755818.
Ubode, Dublin 01 7755251.
www.normann-copenhagen.com

O

Occa Home

0844 879 4258 www.occa-home.co.uk

Osborne & Little

020 7352 1456 (s).
www.osborneandlittle.com

Q

Qmotion

www.qmotionshades.co.uk

R

Rangemaster

087 0789 5107 (s).
www.rangemaster.co.uk

Roche Bobois

Dublin 01 6531650.
www.roche-bobois.com

Romo

Alan Espey Interiors,
Newtownards 028 9181 5076.
Emporium Interiors Kilrea 028 29540119.
Interiors by Marie, Galway 091 766786.
Hampton Furnishings, Lisburn 028 9267 2220.
Kudos Design, Dungannon 028 8772 9290.
Mix 'n' Match Interiors, Meath 01 8259553.
Roycroft Interiors, Lisburn 028 9266 9595.
Sofa So Good, Navan 046 9023930.
The Fabulous Fabric Company,
Ballymakeera 026 45235.
Gareth McFarland Interiors,
Moygashel 028 8775 0077.
www.romo.com

Rose & Grey

www.roseandgrey.co.uk

S

Santa Fe

Maypole Interiors, Newry 028 3026 4689.
Avalon, Armagh 028 3752 7874.
BG Blinds, Dublin 01 8493500.
Apollo Interiors, Galway 091 572053.
Coleman Blinds, Cork 021 4841297.
Salmon Interiors, Bray 01 2865950.
www.santafeshutters.co.uk

Smeg

Bodel Distributors, Lisburn 028 9267 2412.
www.smeguk.com

Sofa.com

www.sofa.com

T

The Fabric Box

0844 8118280 (s).
www.thefabricbox.co.uk

The French Bedroom Company

08456 448 022.
www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

The Rug House

www.therughouse.co.uk

Timberlux

0844 8243432 (s).
www.timberlux.co.uk

U

Ulster Carpets

Craigavon 028 3833 4433 (s).
www.ulstercarpets.com

W

Waterford Stanley

NI NI 028 8772 2195 (s).
ROI 1850 302 502 (s).
www.waterfordstanley.com
Wolf
www.subzero-wolf.co.uk (s).

Z

Zinc Textile

Roycroft Interiors, Lisburn 028 9266 9595.
www.zinctextile.com

READER'S REFERENCE:

(s) = Phone for stockist details.



Layer up Winter decorating, just like dressing for winter, is all about layering. And this is also a fantastic way to give any room in your home a whole new look. Chair pictured is from the Gower range by DFS.

Make your Home Cosy for Winter

At this time of year it's time to take our focus from outside and bring our attention to the indoors so that our homes are cosy and inviting places to take refuge over the colder, darker months of the year.



BY DENISE O'CONNOR OF OPTIMISE DESIGN

If you are repainting, choose warm earthy shades such as camels, and soft sandy tones to create a calm and cosy environment. Introducing accessories in bright and cheerful colours is a great way to keep the winter blues at bay. Throws and cushions are the perfect winter accessory and will ensure neutral sofas or arm chairs are inviting and perfect for snuggling up in on a cold winter evening.

With the shorter days, lighting your home is important. Maximise the amount of natural light in a room by hanging a large mirror on a blank stretch of wall or above a mantel display to reflect light throughout your space. Ambient lighting like table and floor lamps is ideal to bring light into darker corners. Having a number of different light sources will allow you to control the atmosphere in the room, meaning you can create the perfect environment any time of the day.



Focal point And finally there is nothing like an open fire to create a cosy atmosphere. A stove is a lovely feature and they come in a variety of styles to suit any taste.



Layer up Winter decorating, just like dressing for winter, is all about layering. And this is also a fantastic way to give any room in your home a whole new look. Chair pictured is from the Gower range by DFS.

Winter decorating, just like dressing for winter, is all about layering – a fantastic way to give any room a whole new look. Give your bedroom a quick style update and prepare it for the season by layering in textured bedding, throws, and pillows. A luxurious cashmere throw and soft velvet bed pillows will turn your bedroom into a cosy refuge on harsh winter nights.

Adding large rugs to hard flooring like timber and tiles will add warmth and texture underfoot. Make an existing rug even more cosy by layering a thinner, smaller rug on top of it.

Last winter I invested in a wall-to-wall curtain in our sitting room which created instant cosiness. Not only do curtains add a layer of insulation by blocking out chilly winter drafts but the softness of the fabric creates a cosy atmosphere in the space. For extra insulation from the cold have your curtains interlined.

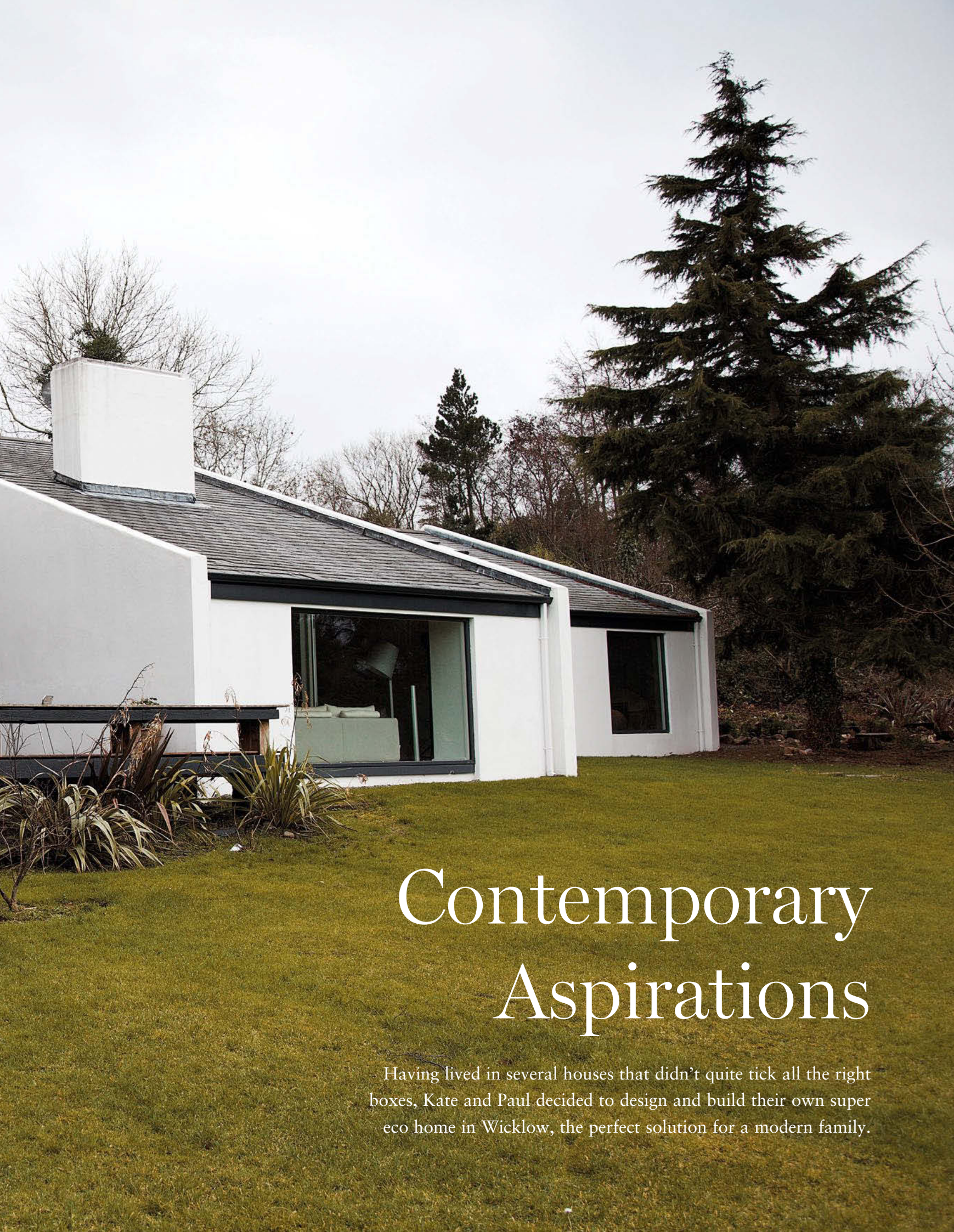
And there is nothing like an open fire to create a cosy atmosphere. A stove is a lovely feature and they come in a variety of styles to suit any taste. Give your existing fireplace a quick makeover by painting the surround and add a large art work above the mantel.

Denise O'Connor is an architect and MD of architecture at interior design consultancy Optimise Design, Dublin 01 6619020. Visit the Optimise blog at www.optimise-design.com Follow us on pinterest www.pinterest.com/optimisedesign



Floor coverings Adding large rugs to hard flooring like timber and tiles will add warmth and texture underfoot. Make an existing rug even more cosy by layering a thinner, smaller rug on top of it. Sofa pictured is the Indivi from BoConcept.





Contemporary Aspirations

Having lived in several houses that didn't quite tick all the right boxes, Kate and Paul decided to design and build their own super eco home in Wicklow, the perfect solution for a modern family.



The glazed areas of the southern façade reinforce the sense of openness and spatial fluidity both inside and out.



Back in 2001 when Kate and her husband Paul found this elevated site near Ashford in County Wicklow they knew it was their ideal location, 'We had been looking for some time, and as the children were all settled at school we were really keen to stay in this area. We wanted an elevated site with picturesque views, so this site and its location was perfect.'

Having found the ideal location, the couple were keen to build a house that would be easy to maintain in addition to being a practical and functional family home, but they were also both keen to do something a little different. Paul has a

keen interest in architecture, and the couple are extremely well travelled and have had the opportunity to see some interesting and striking architecture around the world. This eclectic source of inspiration instilled in them an ambition to create something innovative. Along with his travels Paul was also inspired by home improvement programmes and interior magazines. 'I was particularly inspired by an article on an awarding winning house called 'The Crows Nest'. It was very contemporary and it also gave me a particular interest in the eco side of the build and I did a huge amount of research into this,' explains Paul.



‘We actually had the kitchen designed before we even started building, as the layout really dictated where all the windows, power points and waste pipes would go in the final design.’



After all his research Paul decided that a passive house was the route to go. This was an ambitious project in Ireland in 2001 as it was then a relatively new concept for the country, meaning that the couple really needed to get the best advice on the construction, choice of materials and final design of the house. 'We were excited at the prospect of doing something unique, but at the same time I must say I was a little nervous about embarking on a project of this kind. Although I was a little skeptical, Paul's confidence that it would all work out gave me all the reassurance I needed,' says Kate.

The first hurdle the couple had to overcome was planning. Paul had ideas for the design of the house, and he employed the architectural firm MosArt to come up with an innovative design that would incorporate these ideas. 'I discovered MosArt were doing research into passive construction, they are now the leading architects in Ireland in the Passive House Standard, not only regarding design but also in its global certification of buildings. One of the partners, Tomas O'Leary, actually built his own passive house,' explains Paul. The design concept developed by MosArt embraced the landscape by creating a concave north facing arc, making the most of the available sunlight which had been partially obscured by a steep rising bank, through the construction of a convex glass structure.







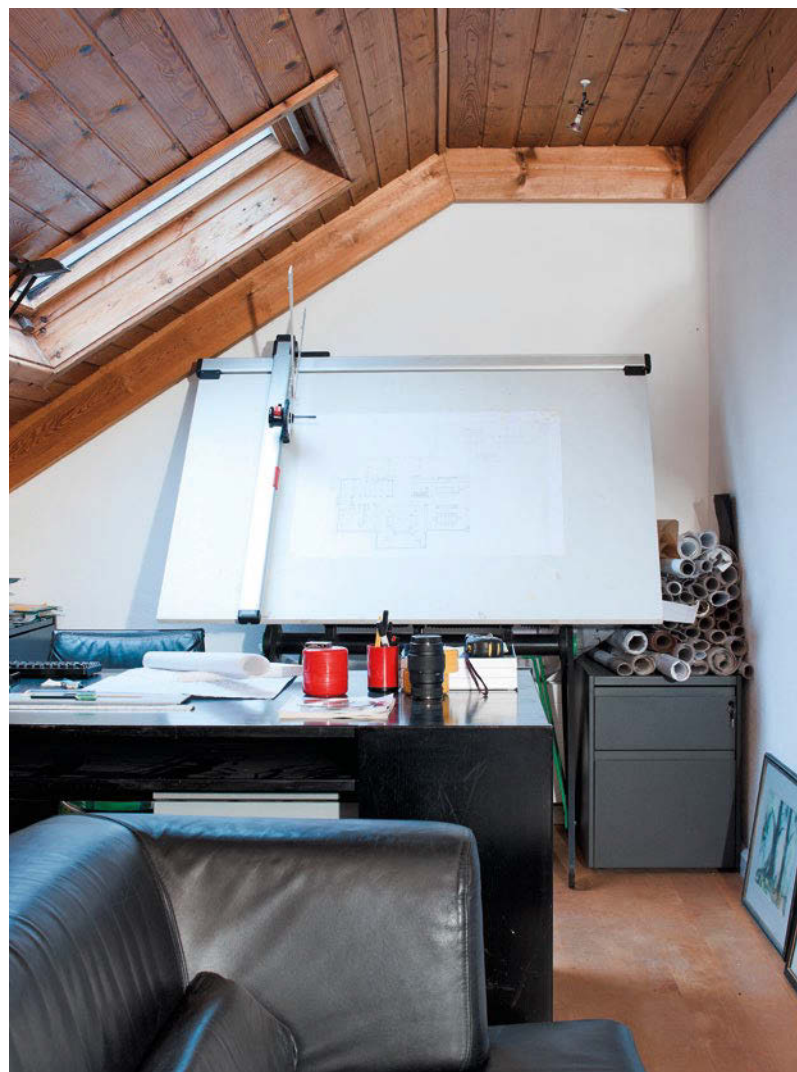


The glazed areas of the southern façade reinforce the sense of openness and spatial fluidity both inside and out. Planning, however, proved to be far from straight forward. The steepness of the north facing site posed planning restrictions regarding position and height, so there were elements of the original design that needed to be reconsidered, overall the planning ended up taking three years to acquire.

Having overcome the lengthy planning process the couple needed to gain as much knowledge about the materials and products used to make the house completely airtight and as efficient as possible. They decided to take a trip to Austria. ‘We had to source windows

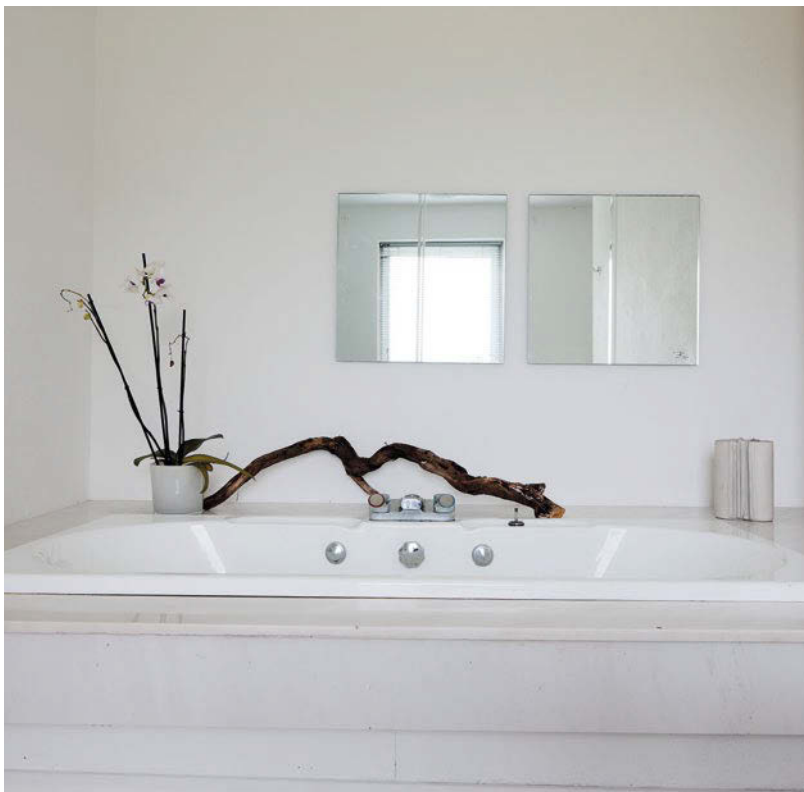
that met the requirements for a passive construction, we discovered a company in Austria ‘Freisinger’ that could supply the windows. They not only supplied the windows but they were highly experienced with all the elements involved in constructing a passive house. They were extremely helpful, they arranged a site visit to a recently built passive house and they also spent two days going through all the details of our design to make sure all the specifications met the requirements,’ explains Paul.

Paul was so involved in the the initial stages of the design that he was keen to project manage and be as hands on as possible with the overall project. ‘The build took two years of hard graft, I sourced all



the tradesmen and helped with as much of the building work as was possible and, to keep costs down, sourced many of the materials, many of which were shipped over from the UK or Europe.'

The end result is a super efficient, highly insulated, elongated, single storey house, with a very sociable layout and a great connection with the garden. The open-plan kitchen dining and living area are situated to one end and the bedrooms and bathrooms to the other. The finishes throughout are simple and contemporary, with light stone tiles from Out of this Earth and simple white walls.



The vast expanse of glass means the house connects seamlessly with the exterior and it's extremely light and spacious.

The bespoke kitchen designed by Danish Kitchen Design was planned not only with aesthetics in mind but also to be practical and functional with plenty of storage and work space for food preparation. The breakfast bar provides ample storage and the perfect spot for casual dining, and the open plan nature of the design means the cook can interact with guests when entertaining. 'Strange as it may seem, but we actually had the kitchen designed before we even started building, as the layout really dictated where all the windows, power points and waste pipes would go in the final design,' explains Paul.

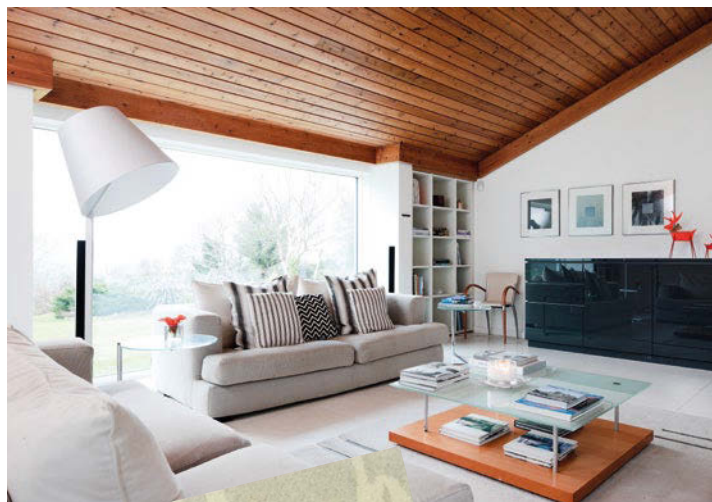
The bedrooms have been simply furnished with splashes of colour introduced through Kate's clever choice of accessories. The spacious master bedroom is clean-lined yet luxurious and has a large walk in wardrobe, providing much needed storage. The generously sized stylish bathrooms are furnished with elegant and modern sanitary ware from The Yard and the large geometric tiles from Out Of This Earth complete the look.

With all the hard work complete, the family can now relax and enjoy the beauty of this house. Not only is it extremely economical but it also provides the space and modernity that Kate and Paul wanted for the family. 'The house works like a dream and we are both so pleased that we embarked on this project, however ambitious it seemed at the time.' 🏠

Create the look

FROM THE WICKLOW HOME

Kate and Paul's stunning and contemporary home in Wicklow is a lesson in stylish design.



Grey hearts wooden bird house from **Very nice Things**. 15cm x 12 cm x 22cm. A perfect gift for any garden lover or bird watcher. £14.50. Phone 017 7260 0904. www.verynicethings.co.uk

The 902 dining chair designed by Martin Ballendat and available from **Wharfside**. The 'Soft Touch' low density integral polyurethane shell comes in 12 colours: white, light grey, dark grey, orange, red, green, black, blue, sand, yellow, mud or brown. £440. www.wharfside.co.uk



Elegance lamp from **Natuzzi**. £450. Phone Arnotts, Dublin 01 805 0400; House of Fraser (Natuzzi concession) Belfast 028 9032 0224; The 1933 Furniture Company, Navan 046 9093012; Franks Furniture, Dundalk 042 9335026; Gillespie & Wilson, Belfast 028 9047 1074 and Square Deal Interiors, Cork 021 4274045. For further information phone 01322 312550. www.natuzzi.co.uk



Himali charm rug in grey from **Kelaty**. Superbly hand knotted from handspun wool in the mountainous region of Nepal. £479 per m². Phone 0208 207 0208. www.kelaty.com







Cream of The Crop

When Pauline went house-hunting in Bangor, Co Down, she was on the trail of that elusive ‘feeling’ – and after exhausting viewings of older properties as well as new-builds she found it in this 1980s chalet bungalow.



‘I started out viewing older houses but they seemed to need a lot of work and I was looking for something low maintenance,’ says Pauline. ‘I also had to find somewhere that would suit and fit my existing furniture, things I’d acquired while living in Dublin and from before then too. I had a lovely library unit which was a real favourite so I had to make sure there’d be a wall for it at the very least!’









Pauline checked out several modern developments and could easily have fallen for the prospect of a brand new kitchen and bathroom. 'But somehow they felt a little soulless and I didn't think my existing furniture would have suited. I then found this development built in the 1980's. As soon as I walked into the house I could just see that my things would fit perfectly here and that helped make up my mind. It just had that "feeling".' Not that the bungalow was perfect. Dark mahogany timber and gloomy wall colours made the space feel smaller than it was but Pauline saw past that to the well proportioned rooms and the fact that any work required was purely cosmetic. 'I liked the house well enough to compromise on that. I'm glad I did now,' she says.



However, like any home owner, as the years went by Pauline wanted to ring the changes and as a keen DIY-er she was keen to get stuck in too. 'I'd loved experimenting with rich wallpapers originally but as time went on I decided to go for simpler décor and painted all the walls in various shades of cream – such as Farrow and Ball 'New White'. I even painted the mahogany banister cream and picked up some lovely pieces of painted furniture, including wardrobes and tables. No wonder my friends called me the Queen of Cream! But the effect, in terms of brightening up the house, was amazing,' says Pauline who loves to spend time in the heart of her home.







‘The living-dining area is the heart of our home. It’s where we relax and where friends and family gather. The original fireplace was dated and mahogany, it just didn’t suit the room. I like the fireplace to be the focal point in a room and was keen to get it right. We found this oak replacement which I think is a great foil to the rest of the space,’ says Pauline who, got stuck into painting the kitchen units. ‘They were good units and very sturdy – just a bit dark and nothing a few coats of emulsion and some new handles didn’t sort out!’ There were bigger changes required in the bathroom though where Pauline went for a luxury Rococo look with sumptuous sconces and travertine tiles: ‘The original bathroom was dull with fish tiles on the walls and floor, I couldn’t wait to get stuck into it. I loved the idea of a sanctuary-style bathroom with candles lit for relaxation - and I think this works well.’









That sanctuary theme continues in the bedrooms where neutral tones are complemented by elegant furnishings and depth added through sumptuous fabrics and textiles. ‘My bedroom has to be a chill-out zone after a hectic day. The neutral tones are perfect for that and also mean I can ring the changes simply by changing the accessories.’



That sanctuary theme continues in the bedrooms where neutral tones are complemented by elegant furnishings and depth added through sumptuous fabrics and textiles. 'My bedroom has to be a chill-out zone after a hectic day. The neutral tones are perfect for that and also mean I can ring the changes simply by changing the accessories. My raw silk curtains in the guest room were maybe a bit extravagant, but I think they just add that touch of luxury the room needed to complete it. Ironically I'd gone looking for a house with everything already done and ended up doing quite a bit - but at least we have the ideal place to relax now it's all done!' 🏠

Create the look

FROM THE BANGOR HOME

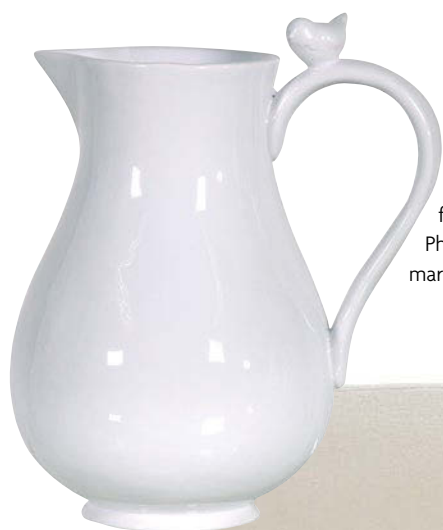
Pauline's County Down home is furnished with sleek and contemporary pieces.



Station lantern from **The Great Gift Company**. £30. Phone 0845 653 1048. www.TheGreatGiftCompany.co.uk



Colonial pocket watch wall clock from **Sweetpea & Willow**. With a polished, mirror finish and retro 1960s embellishments. £85. Phone 0845 257 2627. www.sweetpeaandwillow.com



White bird pitcher jug from **Marquis & Dawe**. £18. Phone 01925 767611. www.marquisanddawes.co.uk



Bluebell 3 seater in shell from **sofa.com**. The Bluebell is an undisputed classic. Its turned legs give it a very elegant, understated feel. Supremely comfortable and a real pleasure to live with: whether in a classic or modern setting. £1,295. Phone 0845 400 2222. www.sofa.com

From Basic to Beautiful

This stunning family home was once a very basic cottage with a series of outbuildings which have been beautifully transformed by its present owners Sophie and Ian.







Back in 2002 when Sophie and Ian first found this site near Flemingstown, Co. Tipperary, they were instantly drawn to the picturesque setting and the quaint little thatched cottage that was on the site. Although picturesque, the cottage was far from habitable and certainly not large enough for the couple and their three children.

The site, around one and a half acres, was split into two fields one of which housed the old thatched cottage and outbuildings. Although the couple loved the little cottage, they initially decided they would build a new house in one of the fields and convert the thatched cottage and outbuildings at a later stage, 'I had an architect friend in London and he designed a really modern super eco friendly house with a flat turf roof, it was an innovative design and we even managed to secure planning permission for it with very little problem,' says Ian.



However, before the couple started the work they were sitting in the field where the proposed new house was to be built looking onto the thatched cottage and barns when they had a sudden change of heart. 'We realised we must be mad embarking on a total new build and the huge expense that was involved, so we decided to work with the existing structures which we could restore and extend, hoping to put a second storey onto the thatched cottage and incorporate the outbuildings to make it all one house that would be comfortable and function practically as a family home.'

The couple enlisted the help of another architect to come up with a design that would link all the buildings and give them the space they needed for them and their family. 'Again we got planning for this new design but I was unsure about it, the house didn't flow or look right to me so I decided to redraw all the plans myself,' says Ian.



When Ian was happy with the basic design he enlisted the help of a local builder who had been recommended to him. 'He was amazing and really threw his heart and soul into the project. We couldn't have done it without him. We worked together on a daily basis with me designing and the builder working out the structural potentials until we reached solutions. The building work took around two years to complete and we actually ran out of money once the thatched side of the house was complete and had to wait a year to start the other side in terms of second fixings,' explains Ian.

Once all the major structural work had been completed Sophie and Ian could turn their attention to the finishing touches. We both wanted a simple country style look so decided on natural finishes such as wood and slate and kept the colour palette very neutral, opting for off whites from Colourtrend.

The open-plan kitchen in the original part of the house, functions perfectly for family life. It was designed to have plenty of storage with freestanding pieces found in local auctions and fitted cabinets that the couple got from B&Q, the mixture of modern appliances and traditional furnishings make it practical and stylish. 'We found the central island in an interiors shop in Leap in West Cork. It was the right size for the space and provided us with the extra work surface we needed for food preparation.'





Ian continues, 'We happened upon the kitchen table and chairs in Laura Ashley they really suit the rustic country style look that we were trying to achieve and the large cabinet was from a postal sorting office, it was a chance find in a local auction.'

Flowing from the kitchen there is a long corridor off which there is a utility room, a cloakroom and a master bedroom with en-suite. The corridor which wraps around a central courtyard leads into a spacious light airy living room, furnished with sofas from IKEA it has large French doors and white washed beams. 'This room is perfect for all seasons, we can open up the doors onto the courtyard in the summer and all snuggle up in front of a roaring fire in the winter,' says Ian.

Upstairs in the new second storey thatched section of the house there are now three spacious bedrooms, and a large family bathroom tiled with tiles from Fired Earth. The maple flooring used in the bedrooms adds warmth and character. 'The flooring was all shipped over from the UK. It came from an old factory in Birmingham that was being demolished, I knew it would inject some old style charm into the house so got a job-lot and actually used it downstairs as well – it was money well spent.'







The now extended and redesigned house has given Sophie and Ian the much needed space they required for their family. 'We both love it and despite all the change of plans it has ended up to be exactly what we wanted, we have a beautiful, characterful home in a lovely tranquil setting.' 🏠



Create the look

FROM THE TIPPERARY HOME

Sophie and Ian's beautiful cottage in Tipperary is finished with a charming variety of items.



This rocking chair is made of lovely weathered birch wood with handwoven rattan from **Loaf**. £345. Phone 0845 468 0698. www.loaf.com

Polly cushion from **Aspace**. Made from 100 per cent cotton. £20. Phone 0845 872 2400. www.aspace.co.uk



Oval frameless Valdichiana table mirror from **The Chandelier & Mirror Company**. Height: 52cm. £95. Phone 01892 541355. www.chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk



Large countries of the world map wall stickers from **In-Spaces**. Available in two sizes, 130cm x 60cm and 230cm x 114cm. From £79.99 Phone 020 7268 3315. www.in-spaces.com

Opening Up

Majella had always been a fan of the classic, painted kitchen. But after deciding on a substantial refurbishment on her Derry~Londonderry home and knocking three rooms into one, she visited Hayburn to take things to the next level.







‘I’ve always had a painted kitchen,’ says Majella. ‘The first one I had was in 1990 so for 20 years I always felt it was bright and fresh. When I came to choose a new kitchen, I wanted the same look but more classic this time than the previous. Although I like the shiny kitchens in other peoples houses, they’re not really my style of living. I like the nice, classic, chic look.’

This was a refurbishment of an existing living, kitchen and dining space so they had to knock down all the walls to make one large space. Majella had a small kitchen and her brief was that the kitchen had become a remote space, the living room was a passage to the kitchen and the kitchen had a playroom that was a passage to the utility. So with the children now 23 and 25, the friends and

adults needed a space where they could all be together. To begin the initial stages, Majella embarked on a period of research. ‘Previously I visited the Self Build show in Belfast and Hayburn & Co. had a lovely stand there which showed the quality of the doors and craftsmanship. With that in mind then, we later visited the showroom which is based within a house completely fitted with Hayburn work and completely fell in love with it. I wanted the whole house!’ It was fair to say the selection of Hayburn & Co. was made there and then.

Majella fully admits she’s an organised person and had a good idea of what she wanted with appliances etc, but not where everything would go, so she was open to new ideas on the shape of the island. She liked the concept of



a window seat and a separate glazed dresser and because of the position of a window, the sink was best placed there, as she wanted the island solely for preparation space. Two walls were coming down between the kitchen and dining room, and kitchen and utility room to open everything up, and another extension was going on to increase the size of the living area. A window was coming away and a set of French doors going in instead to the left hand side of the cooker and curved larder, which acted as a natural break between the dining area and the kitchen cabinets. Majella knew exactly what appliances she wanted; large fridge drawers for their easy accessibility, a microwave, a single oven with a warming drawer, a ceramic hob and an integrated dishwasher. She also

wanted a hot water tap beside the sink instead of having to fill the kettle everytime she needed hot water. 'I had a wishlist ready and I just hoped I could have it all and I was very lucky that Hayburn were able to give me that. Irene worked with me on everything; for example, I'm not very tall and the kitchen has high ceilings but I needed the worksurfaces to suit me. The fridge is a drawer system which pulls out and they're incorporated in the island. There are also two chopping boards that come out from the larder area, as well as a warming drawer, microwave and oven combo so there's loads of cooking facilities. It was hand painted in Rolling Fog from the Little Greene Paint Company and the Island is Pigeon from Farrow & Ball and flooring from Russell Tiles.'



Other special features include a curved larder cabinet beside the tall oven housing to soften the look into the living space, a glazed tall cabinet with the glazed gables to open up what would be a very plain corner. The wall paneling stretches the kitchen and lets it flow better over the whole area around the window seat. In fact pulling everything together, so as not to let the window seat and glazed cabinet look too far away was one of the major design challenges, seemingly effortlessly done by designer Irene. Therefore, this meant keeping a long island, and using the wall paneling to make everything flow.

A substantial list of wonderful features, that in totality make up this stunning kitchen, exceeded the brief for Majella in so many ways, so it's hard for her to pick out her favourite aspect. She manages to hone down to a couple of specific areas; 'My favourite features are the island and the window seat. The window had previously been in the old living room with a high sill and all that sat on it was photo frames and that was all taken down to floor level to incorporate that. The pull out drawer under is great too as I keep linen and place mats there.'

So now Majella has had time to settle in her new space and use the kitchen daily, how does it play its role in the family's day to day life? 'The kitchen is just wonderful to work with, the space and light is beautiful. We have windows all round now and bi-fold doors. I didn't compromise on the kitchen at all and the experience working with Hayburn was fantastic. From day one they have been a joy to work with. They came, tidied up after every day and were all excellent. It was brilliant, I would work with them again, have recommended them since and also had people on behalf of Hayburn & Co. round to look at it a few times.' ✂

Kitchen Contacts

KITCHEN DESIGN

Hayburn & Co.

Ballymena, 028 2587 1442.

www.hayburn.com

Worktops: Kashmir White Granite

Flooring: Russell Tiles

APPLIANCES

Fridge: Whirlpool

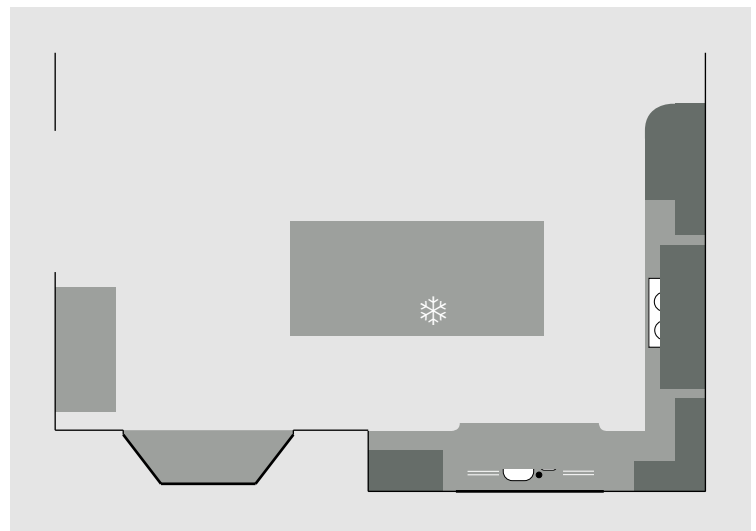
Microwave: Neff

Single oven: Neff

Hob: Neff

Warming Drawer: Neff

Dishwasher: Neff





Cooking for Cosy Nights In

Jamie Oliver's new cookbook, *Jamie's Comfort Food*, offers winter warming recipes that the whole family can enjoy.

Here are a few recipes for you to try at home.

Pictured above: Shepherd's Pie. (Recipe on following page).

PHOTOGRAPHY © JAMIE OLIVER ENTERPRISES (2014 JAMIE'S COMFORT FOOD). PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID LOFTUS.
JAMIE'S COMFORT FOOD BY JAMIE OLIVER IS PUBLISHED BY MICHAEL JOSEPH.

Shepherd's Pie

I believe this is the ultimate shepherd's pie – a recipe designed to use up leftover roasted meat. Historically, you'll find it had potato on the bottom, sides and top, so I was inspired to run with this, giving you a pie with crispy potato all the way round, gorgeous tender meat and veg in the middle, and the best gravy to pour over your portion. This is definitely next-level cooking. To be honest, it's so damn good that I'll usually roast a small lamb shoulder specially in order to make a big shepherd's pie for eight to ten people, which also gives you enough filling to freeze for another day – always a bonus.

Serves 8–10

6 hours 30 minutes plus cooling

508 calories

INGREDIENTS

Roast Lamb

*1 small shoulder of lamb, bone in (2kg)
Olive oil*

Filling

*4 red onions
4 carrots
4 sticks of celery
1 medium swede
A few sprigs of fresh rosemary
1 heaped tablespoon plain flour*

Topping, Sides & Bottom

*2.5kg Maris Piper potatoes
2 good knobs of unsalted butter
100g Cheddar cheese
2 sprigs of fresh rosemary
60g fresh breadcrumbs*

METHOD

1 Preheat the oven to 170°C/325°F/gas 3. In a snug-fitting high-sided roasting tray, rub the lamb all over with a little oil and a good pinch of sea salt and pepper. Add a splash of water to the tray, then roast for 4 hours, or until the meat is tender and will fall away from the bone. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tray, then lift the lamb out onto a board, take all the meat and crispy skin off the bone and roughly chop it, reserving the bones. Skim away any fat from the

tray and pop it into a clean jam jar. Add a splash of boiling water to the tray and stir around to pick up all the lovely sticky bits from the bottom. Keep it all to one side.

2 For the filling, peel and roughly dice the onions, carrots, celery and swede, then put them into your biggest pan on a medium-high heat with 2 tablespoons of reserved lamb fat. Strip in the rosemary leaves, then fry the veg for 20 minutes, or until lightly caramelised, stirring regularly. Stir in the flour, lamb, bones and tray juices, then pour in 1.5 litres of water. Bring to the boil, then put the lid on and reduce to a gentle simmer for 40 minutes, or until you've got a loose, stew-like consistency, stirring occasionally. To guarantee intense gravy and a tender but dense filling, remove and discard the bones, then place a large coarse sieve over a pan and, in batches, spoon the lamb stew into the sieve. Let the gravy drip through, and after a couple of minutes, when you get a dense pile of meat and veg in the sieve, transfer that to a bowl, leaving the gravy in the pan. Separately freeze half the cool meat and gravy for another day.

3 For the topping, sides and bottom, peel and roughly chop the potatoes and cook in boiling salted water for 12 to 15 minutes, or until tender. Drain and leave to steam dry, then add the butter, grate in half the cheese, season to perfection with salt and pepper, mash well and cool completely. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas 6. Use a little reserved lamb fat to grease the inside of a large pie dish (25cm x 30cm), then pick and tear over the rosemary leaves and sprinkle with half the breadcrumbs – they'll stick to the fat and add an incredible crunch. A handful at a time, press the cooled mash into the dish, covering the bottom and sides with a 1cm-thick layer. Spoon in the filling and a couple of spoonfuls of gravy, smooth out, then top with the remaining mash, pat it flat, scuff it up with a fork and pinch it at the edges. Grate over the rest of the cheese, scatter with the remaining breadcrumbs and drizzle lightly with oil. Importantly, bake on the bottom of the oven for 1 hour 10 minutes, or until crisp and golden. Warm your gravy through reducing if desired, then serve the pie with loads of seasonal greens or peas and lots of condiments.



Jamie Oliver

Jamie Oliver started cooking at his parents' pub, The Cricketers, in Clavering, Essex, at the age of eight. After leaving school he began a career as a chef that took him to the River Café, where he was famously spotted by a television production company.

His television and publishing career began in 1999 with The Naked Chef series. Since then he has set up Fifteen restaurant in London, changed school dinners in the UK and revolutionised home cooking. His charity, The Jamie Oliver Foundation, seeks to improve people's lives through food. It operates the Fifteen restaurants, which train disengaged young people for a career in the catering industry, and the Ministry of Food centres, which provide places for people to learn basic cooking skills. Jamie has also created Home Cooking Skills, a BTEC course for secondary schools, and the Kitchen Garden Project, a new food education programme for primary school children.

Jamie's cookbook for 2014 is all about those wonderful comforting dishes closest to your heart. It's about food that makes you feel safe, secure, excited and happy. Dishes are inspired by everything from childhood memories to the seasons, taking into account all those guilty pleasures and lots of good mood food. With much-loved meals from around the world, the recipes in this beautiful book are guaranteed to hit the spot, every time. From Lobster, mac 'n' cheese and Mighty Greek moussaka, to delicate gyoza, as well as a whole section of indulgent puds, including Scrumptious sticky toffee pudding and Hummingbird cake – there's something for everyone.





Winter Nights Chilli

When the weather's closing in, it's really great to tuck into a full-flavoured, hearty dish, and for me, a proper, rustic chilli rocks. The meat will fall apart and melt in your mouth. It's moreish, spicy and with a clever contrasting salsa is a total joy.

Serves 12

6 hours

553 Calories

INGREDIENTS

Chilli

20g dried porcini mushrooms
2 tablespoons each fennel seeds, coriander seeds, smoked paprika
1 butternut squash (1.2kg)
olive oil
1kg pork belly, skin removed and bone out
1kg brisket
2 large onions
2 teaspoons soft light brown sugar
150ml balsamic vinegar
2 x 400g tins of cannellini beans or chickpeas
2 x 400g tins of plum tomatoes
2 red peppers
2 yellow peppers
2–3 fresh red chillies

1 bunch of fresh coriander (30g)

Salsa

1 red onion
2 crisp eating apples
3 tablespoons cider vinegar
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

METHOD

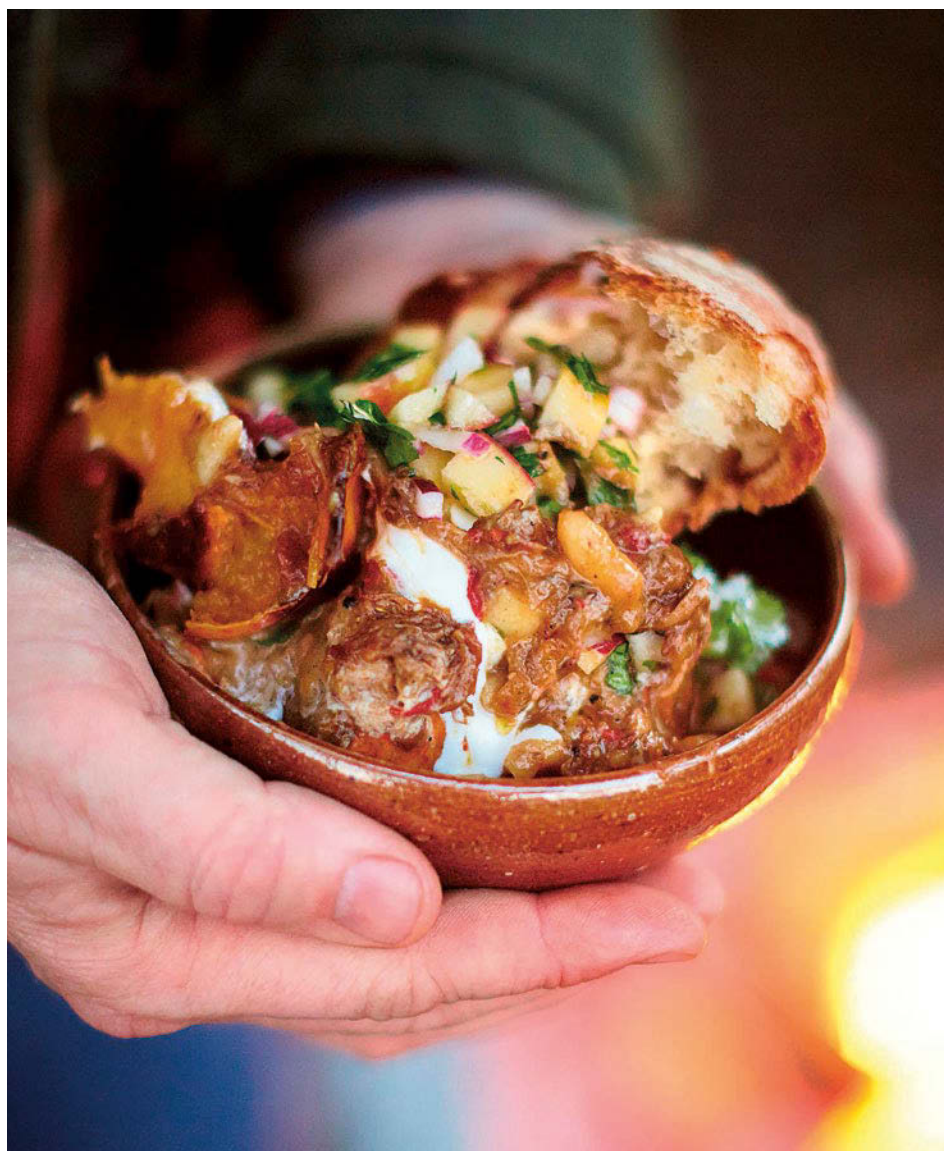
1 Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/gas 5. Pop the mushrooms into a small bowl and just cover with boiling water. Bash the fennel and coriander seeds, paprika and 1 teaspoon each of sea salt and black pepper in a pestle and mortar. Carefully cut the squash in half lengthways, deseed, then chop into 4cm chunks. Toss with half the spice mixture and a drizzle of olive oil on a baking tray. Roast for 50 minutes, or until golden, then remove from the oven and reduce the temperature to 150°C/300°F/gas 2.

2 Meanwhile, drizzle both cuts of meat with olive oil and rub with the remaining spice mixture, then place a large casserole pan (at least 30cm wide, 8cm deep) on a medium-high heat. Place the pork and the brisket in the pan fat-side down and brown on all sides for around 15 minutes in total, then peel and roughly chop the onions. Remove both meats to a plate, reduce the heat to medium, add the onions and sugar to the

fat and fry for 10 minutes, stirring regularly until lightly caramelised. Add the balsamic vinegar and most of the mushroom liquid (discarding any gritty bits). Roughly chop and add the mushrooms, followed by the beans or chickpeas, liquid and all, and the tomatoes, breaking them up with a spoon, then return both meats to the pan. Loosen with a splash of water if needed, then bring to the boil, season, and pop a layer of damp greaseproof paper directly on the surface. Cover with tin foil and cook in the oven for around 5 hours, or until the meat is tender.

3 Prick the peppers and chillies, then blacken all over on a barbecue or in a griddle pan. Place in a bowl, cover with clingfilm and leave to cool, then peel and deseed them, keeping as much juice as you can for extra flavour. Roughly chop with half the coriander, and toss with a little salt and pepper. When the meat is tender, remove from the oven, break up the meat, then stir in the squash, peppers and chillies. Adjust the consistency with water if needed, taste and season to perfection, then keep warm.

4 To finish, peel the onion, then finely chop with the apples (core and all) and the remaining coriander. Dress with the cider vinegar and extra virgin olive oil and season to perfection. Serve the chilli with the salsa, bread or rice, and a dollop of yoghurt.



Chicken Tikka Masala

Without question, Chicken Tikka Masala is a brilliant curry that makes people very happy. Of course it's inspired by fantastic Indian cooking, but is in fact an Anglo-Indian evolution, created to suit British palates. When you make it, you'll be super-proud – you can use top-quality chicken, it's loads of fun to marinate and grill, the method rocks, and it's highly unlikely you'll find a better expression. I love to make my own paratha breads (see recipe below) to serve with it too. Dig a hole in the garden and get grilling!

Serves 6–8

1 hour 20 minutes, plus marinating

415 calories

INGREDIENTS

1 level teaspoon ground cloves
1 level teaspoon ground cumin
2 heaped teaspoons each sweet smoked paprika, garam masala
3 lemons
6 cloves of garlic
1 thumb-sized piece of ginger
6 heaped tablespoons natural yoghurt
800g free-range skinless boneless chicken breasts
3 fresh green or yellow chillies

Sauce

2 onions
4 cloves of garlic
1–2 fresh red chillies
1 bunch of fresh coriander (30g)
Olive oil
1 level tablespoon ground coriander
2 level teaspoons turmeric
6 tablespoons ground almonds
2 x 400g tins of plum tomatoes
1 x organic chicken stock cube
2 x 400g tins of light coconut milk



METHOD

1 Put the cloves, cumin and 1 heaped teaspoon each of paprika and garam masala into a small pan and toast for 1 minute to bring them back to life, then tip into a large bowl. Finely grate in the zest of 1 lemon, squeeze in all its juice, crush in the garlic, peel and finely grate in the ginger, and add the yoghurt and 1 teaspoon of sea salt. Cut the chicken breasts into 5cm chunks, then massage all that flavour into the meat. Skewer up the chicken chunks, interspersing them with lemon wedges and chunks of green or yellow chilli, but don't squash them together too much. Place on a tray, cover with clingfilm and marinate in the fridge for at least 2 hours, but preferably overnight.

2 For the sauce, peel the onions and garlic, then finely slice with the red chillies and coriander stalks (reserving the leaves for later). Put it all into a large casserole pan on a medium-high heat with a lug of oil and cook for around 20 minutes, or until golden, stirring regularly. Add the ground coriander, turmeric and remaining 1 heaped teaspoon each of paprika and garam masala. Cook for 2 minutes, then add and toast the almonds. Pour in the tomatoes, crumble in the stock cube and add 300ml of boiling water.

Simmer for 5 minutes, then stir in the coconut milk. Simmer for a final 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, then season to perfection.

3 When you're ready to cook the chicken, drizzle it with a little oil, then grill on a hot barbecue, in a screaming hot griddle pan or under a hot grill, turning until it's very golden and gnarly on all sides. Slice the chicken off the skewers straight into the sauce, reserving the lemons. Simmer for 2 minutes while you use tongs to squeeze some jammy lemons over the curry, to taste. Swirl through some more yoghurt, sprinkle with the coriander leaves, and serve with parathas (see recipe below) or fluffy basmati rice.

Paratha (Optional)

Here's a nice little game-changer – make your own paratha to enjoy with your chicken tikka.

Serves 8

INGREDIENTS

300g wholemeal bread flour
300g plain flour
2 tablespoons of olive oil
400ml semi-skimmed milk
Pinch of salt

COMPETITION

Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living Magazine together with Penguin Group are offering three lucky readers the chance to win a copy of Jamie's Comfort Food. Worth £30 each.

JAMIE'S COMFORT FOOD



How to enter

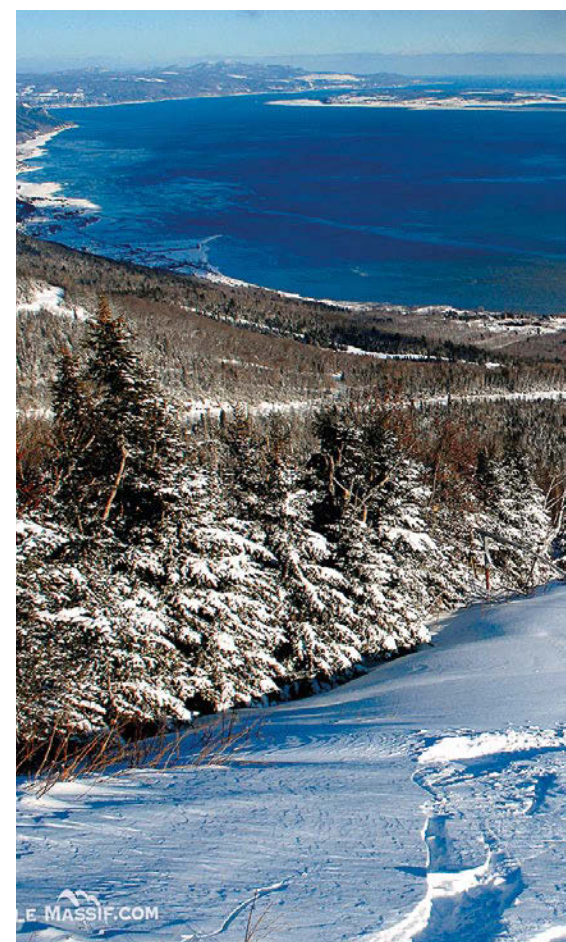
Answer the following question:
What age was Jamie Oliver when he started cooking in his parent's pub?

Send your answer, name, address, email and phone number marked **Jamie's Comfort Food Competition** to Ireland's Homes Interiors & Living magazine, PO Box 42, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7AD or Ashgrove House, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin or enter online at: www.ihil.net

Entries must be received no later than 5pm, Friday 2nd January 2015. One entry per household. One separate email/postcard for each competition. Judge's decision is final. No cash alternative. Prizes are non-transferable. If you would like to receive our monthly Newsletter please include your email address with your entry.

METHOD

Put the wholemeal bread flour and plain flour into a bowl with a good pinch of sea salt. Gradually add 2 tablespoons of olive oil and 400ml of semi-skimmed milk, mixing until combined, then knead for a few minutes on a flour-dusted surface. Leave to rest for 20 minutes, then divide the dough into 8 and thinly roll out each piece to A4 size. One-by-one, drizzle and rub lightly with oil, roll up into a loose log, roll the log up like a Catherine wheel, then roll out with a rolling pin again to a flat round just under 1 cm thick. Cook in a hot oiled frying pan on a medium heat for 3 minutes on each side, or until nicely charred, then sprinkle lightly with salt. Transfer to a board and smash together to expose the layers.



Destination Abroad:

Quebec

One of Canada's largest cities houses plenty of skiing opportunities, a wonderful winter festival and lots of brilliant restaurants.

Things to see & do

There are around 90 ski resorts in Quebec, and temperatures will drop well below zero from mid-December so be sure to wrap up warm when in Quebec.

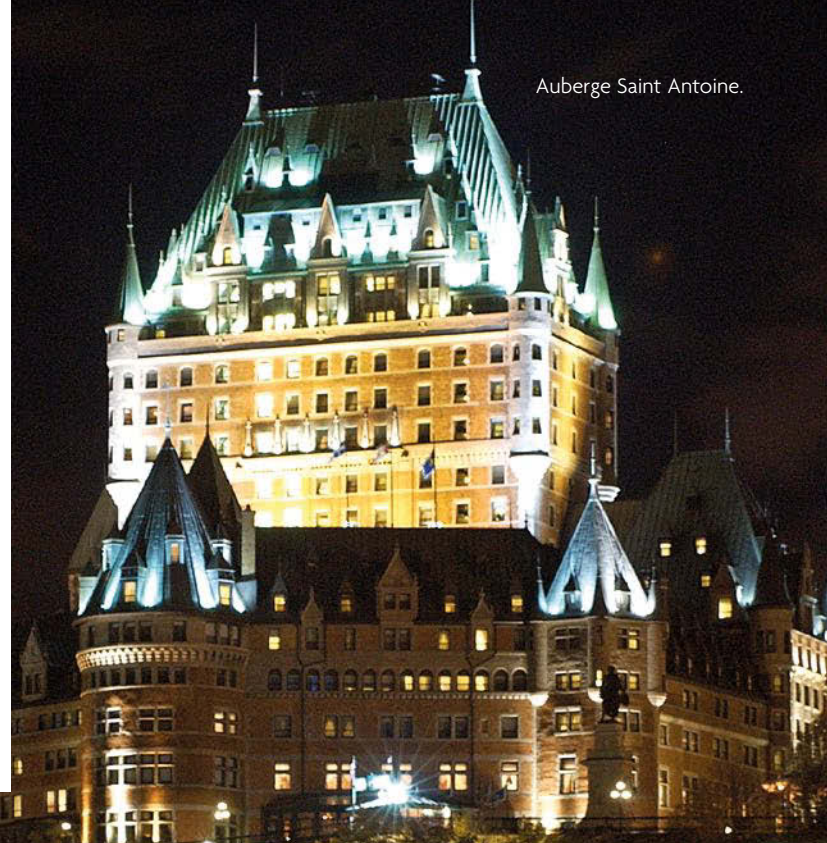
For a fun family day out, look no further than Valcartier Vacation Village. The Vacation Village is the largest winter playground in America, with more than 35 snow slides, snow rafting and 17 mechanical lifts. With a children's playground on-site, there's something to keep everyone in the family entertained.

Quebec's City Lights Festival (Festival des Lumieres de Quebec) celebrates the winter solstice on December 21st and runs until the end of the month to celebrate the holiday period. The Boreal Path is filled with beautiful light attractions, including L'Escalier de Cristal at the Place D'Youville.

For those planning on staying in Quebec later in January, the Winter Carnival is a must see. Running from 30th January to 15th February 2015, the carnival is the largest winter carnival in the world and will be in its 61st year next winter. The carnival sets out to achieve a perfect balance between tradition, modernity, and culture. Thousands flock to this



Quartier Petit Champlain.



Auberge Saint Antoine.



Le Massif in Quebec.



carnival because there is so much to do - from ice canoe races to snow sculptures.

Quebec has plenty to offer by way of shopping, be it one-off stores or shopping malls. The Petit-Champlain district is full of one of a kind boutiques and bistros, so you can buy the perfect gift. It is one of the most popular attractions of Quebec, thanks to its cobblestone streets and historical architecture. This was home to Louis Joillet, the European explorer who lived there until he died in 1700. The Petit-Champlain district looks like a beautiful riverside village with its romantic European atmosphere. Or pay a visit to Laurier Quebec, one of Canada's largest

shopping malls. There are around 300 stores spread over three levels. Some of the biggest names found here include American favourites Target, Sears and Toys R Us.

Eating & Drinking

Dining in Quebec is an extraordinary experience. If you are celebrating a special occasion, visit Restaurant la Taniere. It is famous for its huge menus: you can choose to eat 10, 15 or 20 courses. The head chef cites history, art and architecture as the inspiration for these gastronomic delights. It is a once in a lifetime experience, with each course being

DESTINATION ABROAD: QUEBEC



Hotel de Glace.

planned and carefully crafted. This little gem is off the beaten track, but is well worth the trip.

With Quebec being predominantly French speaking, it is only natural the city would offer exquisite French and European cuisine. iX Bistro is a quaint little French eatery situated outside of the old town. But don't let the size of the premises fool you - it may be small but it is packed with flavour! The menu will cater to any taste, and you can guarantee a pleasant, intimate dining experience.

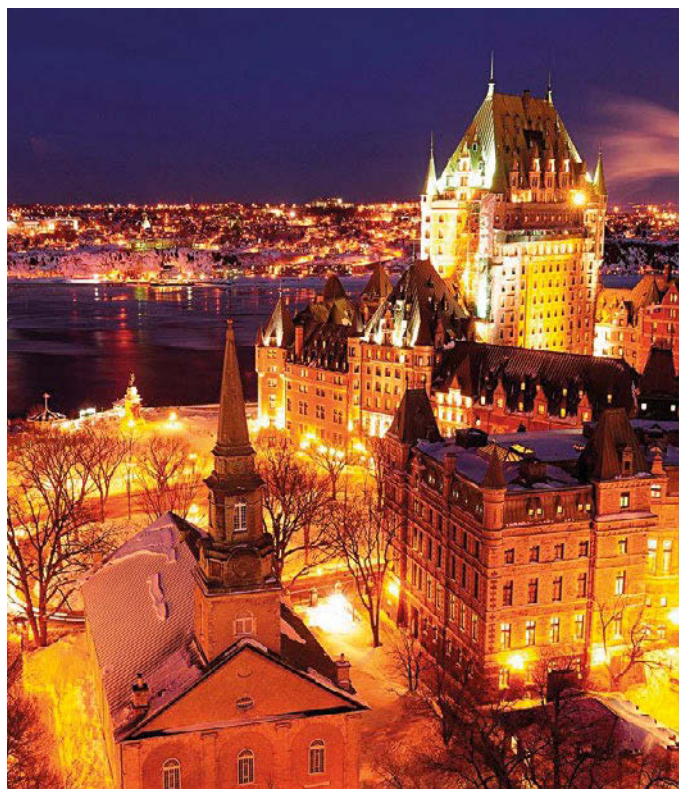
For a quick bite, or a drink, head to the Pub D'Orsay in Downtown Quebec City. It is renowned for its friendly atmosphere, European flair and outstanding food. You can enjoy the beautiful view of the City Hall and Quebec Basilica as you dine.

Where to stay

For a New Year to remember, book the 'New Year's Eve' holiday package at the luxury Auberge Saint Antoine. This package includes a two night stay with a horse drawn carriage tour of Old Quebec, a six course gourmet dinner, a glass of Champagne to celebrate the countdown, followed by fireworks at Café-Bar Artefact and dance reception. The hotel is situated close to the Place Royale, with 95 rooms and suites to chose from.

For something more stripped down, the Maison du Fort is for you. This Georgian house has only nine rooms, but it is a very charming B&B with so much to offer. It is conveniently located by the steps from the boardwalk, so you will not have to travel far to go exploring the city of Quebec. The quaint house is only 30 minutes away from the Jean-Lesage Airport and is open all year round.

The most exciting place to stay in Quebec is the Hotel de Glace - the Ice Hotel. The hotel has been running since 2001, when it was located on the shores of Lac-Saint-Joseph, Quebec. It has since moved closer to the city, located a mere ten minutes from downtown Quebec. This spectacular is created from over 15,000 tons of snow and ice each year, and covers more than 3,000 square metres. There are 36 rooms at the hotel, including themed suites, exterior spas and a sauna. The hotel hosts weddings, and has gained a lot of media attention. Disney's Press Junket for the movie Frozen, filming of a Head and Shoulders advert and



Quebec Street.

National Geographic filming have all taken place there in recent years. The Hotel de Glace is not short of activities either. You can take part in ice skating, dog sledding, workshops and cocktail parties.

Getting there

Flights are available from Dublin to Quebec, with one stop, with U.S. Airways.

Essential Contacts

www.usairways.com www.quebecregion.com



Destination Ireland:

County Leitrim

County Leitrim is defined by water, which influences both the county's character and the activities that take place there. The Shannon Erne Waterway is Europe's longest inland navigable waterway and stretches through the county. Linger at the waterside pubs and restaurants, relax as if there was no tomorrow and enjoy what this beautiful location has to offer.

Glencar Waterfall (Photo Fáilte Ireland)



Glenview Folk Museum. (Photo by Holger Leue)



Shannon Blueway, County Leitrim (Photo Leitrim Tourism Ltd)



Glencar Waterfall, County Leitrim (Photo Leitrim Tourism Ltd)

Things To See & Do

County Leitrim has a relatively small coastline but why not catch a few waves in the Atlantic with Leitrim Surf www.leitrimsurf.ie or you could also take a Canadian canoe down the River Bonet with Adventure Gently www.adventuregentlyireland.com

Get in touch with Big Day Out in Leitrim who have devised a series of things to do including landscape guided walks, electric bike trails and gently guided canoe tours. Their guides have all the local knowledge and have selected three magnificent locations in Leitrim to bring you on a magical trip, surrounded by nature in a fun relaxed atmosphere. www.bigdayoutinleitrim.com

Well worth a visit is The Leitrim Design House in Carrick-on-Shannon. It stocks items from over 200 of the leading champions of Irish craft and design. www.leitrimdesignhouse.ie

For some spectacular scenery head to Glencar Lake which is found on the border between counties Sligo and Leitrim and has dramatic steep cliffs with a series of waterfalls cascading from the heights. Glencar Waterfall is perhaps the most dramatic sight, descending from a 50ft rocky headland into a deep pool below in a haze of white spray. It even served as inspiration for one of W.B.Yeats' famous poems. Picnic facilities and information kiosk are onsite.

Glenview Folk Museum in Ballinamore holds a private collection of over 6,000 antiques, historical and novel items ranging from pre famine Ireland. There is an impressive array of farmyard equipment and a collection of horse drawn agricultural machinery and a thrasher. A street scene has a number of reconstructed shops and these are stocked, filled and equipped, as they would have existed in the past. It can be found at Glenview House which is one Ireland's premier guesthouses situated on the outskirts of Ballinamore town.



Glenview Folk Museum. (Photo by Holger Leue)

Coarse and pike angling holidays on the lakes of Cavan and Leitrim have always been a big factor in Glenview's spring and autumn trade with special facilities for bait, equipment and boat hire available. Expert advice is available for anglers arriving in Ballinamore for the first time. Any member of the family will also be happy to give you a personal tour of the Glenview Folk Museum. www.glenview-house.com

Where To Stay

Bush Hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon offers guests a 200 year tradition of comfort. The hotel started life as an inn for weary travellers and their horses on the coach journey between Dublin and Sligo. Today that strong tradition of inn keeping and comfort is continued. Whilst completely modernised, the hotel retains much of its old world tradition, character and charm and much memorabilia from the past. www.bushhotel.com

The Landmark Hotel also in Carrick-on-Shannon is 4 Star Fáilte Ireland and AA rated and is an ideal retreat to escape the hustle and bustle of life. A warm friendly welcome and great value accommodation combined with breathtaking views provide the ultimate haven for guests. A choice of restaurants offers an eclectic selection of dishes and a choice of bars including the stunning new Black Mint Cocktail Bar. www.thelandmarkhotel.com

Lough Rynn Castle in Mohill is one of Ireland's most luxurious castle locations. It is the ancestral home of the Clements family and the legendary Lord Leitrim. This secluded castle is majestically set on the shore of Lough Rynn and is surrounded by over 300 acres of breathtaking scenery, lush green pastures, ancient forests and historical points of interest. The castle itself retains all the splendour that underlines its ancient history with its open fires, furnishings, walled gardens and meandering corridors. The Sandstone Restaurant at Lough Rynn Castle is a very special fine dining experience, and opens for both lunch and dinner daily. Afternoon tea and lunch is also available daily in the castle's drawing rooms. www.loughrynn.ie



Carrick on Shannon. (Photo by Chris Hill)

Places to Eat & Drink

The Oarsman Bar and Café in Carrick On Shannon is a hidden gem where service, quality local food, value for money and consistency are always the focus. Try the Seafood Chowder and the great range of speciality beers. www.theoarsman.com

Smyths Restaurant in Ballinamore serves a wide selection of locally sourced quality dishes. Try the Atlantic smoked salmon for a real authentic taste of this part of the world. There is also a gift shop which stocks a wide range of Irish crafts from Belleek to Galway Crystal. www.smythsrestaurant.ie

Lena's Tea Room in Carrick On Shannon is a throwback to the 1920s but with a contemporary twist. Antique furniture has been up cycled and vintage tea sets are used to serve the freshly brewed loose leaf teas and artisan roasted coffee. The tea room offers the food lover a wide range of choice - from gourmet sandwiches, savoury tartlets to a counter laden with patisseries and other delights. www.lenastearoom.ie

Essential Contacts

www.leitrimtourism.com



Glencar Lake (Photo Fáilte Ireland)



Thatch cottage (Photo Fáilte Ireland)

Cut your own Bouquet!

There's a lot of great magazine articles these days about growing your own food for your table but what about growing your own bouquets!



BY DEIRDRE PRINCE

Growing up in the city, one of the things I remember most about being a child is almost daily visits to the Phoenix Park, sitting in fields of grass and collecting daisies. I used to spend what seemed like hours gathering these delicate flowers, slicing a slit at the bottom of the long stem and carefully inserting another

daisy stem through it. My friends and I would have competitions to see who could make the longest daisy chain and we carefully carried them home to display at home. And so began my interest in collecting flowers and bringing them indoors.

One of the nicest gifts we can give or receive is a bunch of flowers. A floral bouquet puts a smile

on everyone's face. Think about the effort someone goes to, going to the florist and carefully choosing a bouquet of roses or lilies specifically for the recipient. How special does that make one feel? Now what if that person had carefully cut each bloom from their own garden and created a special bouquet with the receiver in mind. Now that's extra special.





Sweet Pea/Lathyrus odoratus (Fig. 1)

One of my favourite plants to bring indoors is Sweet Pea/Lathyrus odoratus. I wish I could describe the scent but I'm afraid I won't do it justice. All I can say is that the pleasant sweet smell stops me in my tracks for a moment every time I walk past the vase containing these silky tissue blooms. In order to prolong their time indoors, make sure that when you cut them, they should be picked before the flowers are fully opened. Place the tips of the stems in boiling water for a minute and place them in a vase filled with cold water. The great advantage of cutting annuals such as sweet pea regularly is it will encourage your plant to produce even more blooms.

Dahlia (Fig. 2)

These large flowers make flamboyant floral displays and they come in such an array of colours that you're sure to find one that you love. They can last for a long time in vases. The great thing about Dahlias is that the more you cut them from your garden, the more they will grow. When you cut them, make a fresh horizontal cut at the bottom of the stem and place the stems in a few inches of very hot water for about an hour. Then cut the bottom of the stem off and place in a vase of room temperature water. The blooms should last for at least a week.

Paeonia/Peonies (Fig. 3)

The optimum time for cutting these flowers is in the morning as with most flowers and if you cut them in bud, they will last for longer. Ensure the bud isn't too hard, as when they are too tight, the flowers may not open at all when you bring them inside. When you cut these dramatic showy



blooms, ensure that you have a clean, sharp cut and immediately place them in warm water, then put them in to a vase with room temperature water. If you're planning to use them for a display in a few weeks, the cut flowers can be placed in the fridge with or without water, place them on their sides, wrapped in damp paper towelling and cling film. Remarkably, they will keep for up to four weeks like this. A few days before you need them, place them in warm water and allow the flowers open.

Sunflowers (Fig. 4)

Cutting down a sunflower in order to put it in a vase needs to be done early in the morning or later in the evening to avoid the heat of midday. The flower is best for cutting before the petals are fully pushed out from the bud. Once a clean cut is achieved with secateurs, place the stems in a bucket of lukewarm water and keep out of the sun.

Hellebores (Fig. 5)

If you are cutting these in summer, then you need to plunge the cut stems into a bucket of water to avoid them wilting. If it's during winter, there is no need to do this. When you get them inside, cut them again and put the ends of the stems into boiling water for about 30 seconds. This will prevent the stem from wilting. Helleborus niger or Christmas Rose is a great one as its normally an early bloomer.

How to cut flowers properly

Following a few rules when cutting flowers to bring them indoors will make a great difference in the life of the blooms. Use secateurs or a sharp pairing knife for trimming the flowers. Trim the stems at an angle with a sharp, clean cut. This will help to keep the flowers fresher for longer. If you have any flower food, use one packet per vase and fill the vase to about three-quarters full. When you have selected your chosen blooms, remove any leaves that would touch the water. Position the stems at an angle in the vase and during the week, keep filling the vase with room temperature water every day in order to inhibit the build-up of bacteria. The temperature of the room is important too. A cooler room will help keep the blooms for longer so avoid positioning the vase close to radiators or in sunny windows. Even a simple bunch of freshly cut lavender will keep for weeks in a vase and bring the scent of the garden into your house. (Fig. 6). Other great flowers which are successful for cutting and decorating your house are Astartia major (Fig. 7), Narcissus/ Daffodil (Fig. 8) and Syringa vulgaris/Lilac (Fig. 9)

We are ringing in the New Year and now is the time to plan your garden for the year with flowering plants to decorate your garden and your home. If space allows, why not dedicate a part of your garden to grow flowers for cutting.

Creating a beautiful bouquet depends on two things. What's growing in your garden and your creativity!

Fig. 2, 3 & 5 by The Informal Florist. Fig. 1, 4, 6, 8 & 9 by Deirdre Prince. Fig. 7 by Rincy Koshy.

Deirdre Prince MLA Dip Arch Tech MGLDA Landscape Architect.
Phone Dublin 01 6350032. Mobile: 087 9916961. www.deirdreprice.ie
Winner of gold medal and Best in Small Garden category
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Style Icon



LC4 Chaise Longue by Le Corbusier/Jeanneret/Perriand from Cassina

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The chaise can be adjusted to the desired reclining position by sliding the mattress along the frame. Available in various leathers with complementary headrests the LC4 also comes in two fur ‘ponyskin’ colours - plain black or a mix of black, brown and white, with a black leather headrest.

The LC4 Chaise is part of the the ‘Cassina Maestri’ collection. These are certified original designs, each of which is marked with the signature of the designer and the Cassina Maestri logo, together with the production number and identity card.

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